花とゆめ COMICS

THE REASON WHY SHE CAN'T SMILE

(WARAENAI RIYUU)

MOCHIZUKI KARIN

2

9784592172321

ISBN4-592-17232-9

C9979 ¥390E

1929979003906

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雑誌43759-24

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笑えない理由

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望月花梨

1924
笑えない理由 2
望月花梨

花とゆめCOMICS

白泉社

Hana To Yume COMICS

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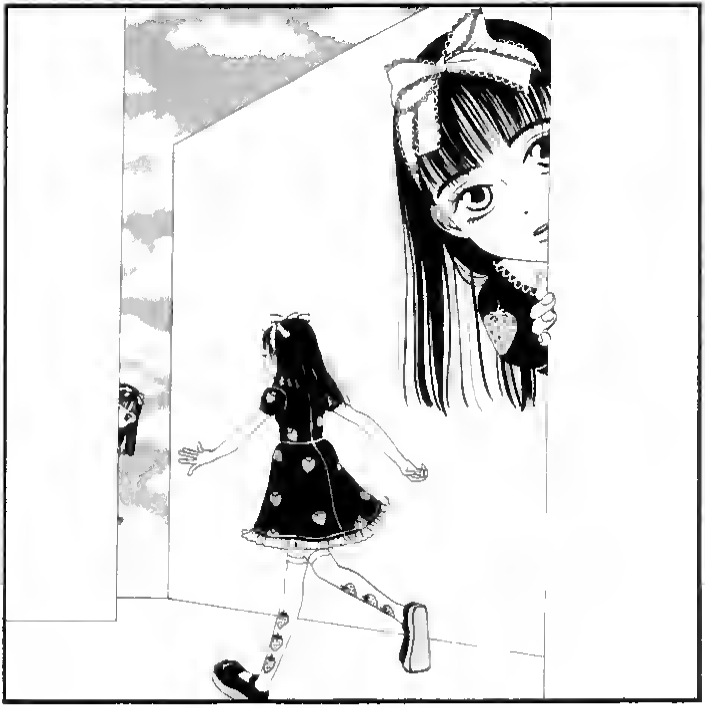
(WARAENAI RIYUU)

VOLUME 1

MOCHIZUKI KARIN



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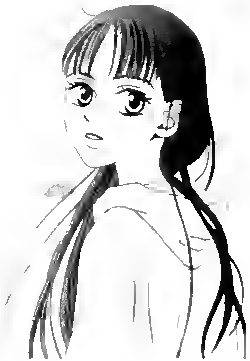
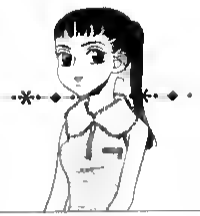
The Reason Why She Can't Smile

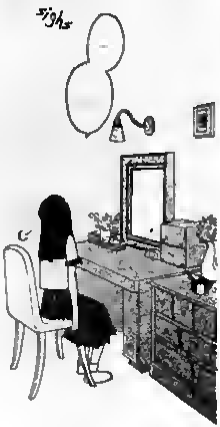
(Waraenai Riyuu)





A little info about a character: Ayako

Kanako's older sister. She dotes on her little sister. As for her, she has a back story of her own, so it'd be great if I could dedicate a chapter to her, but it'll probably turn out to be a pretty dark chapter, so I'm not sure if they'd let me draw it... I hope I get to, though!

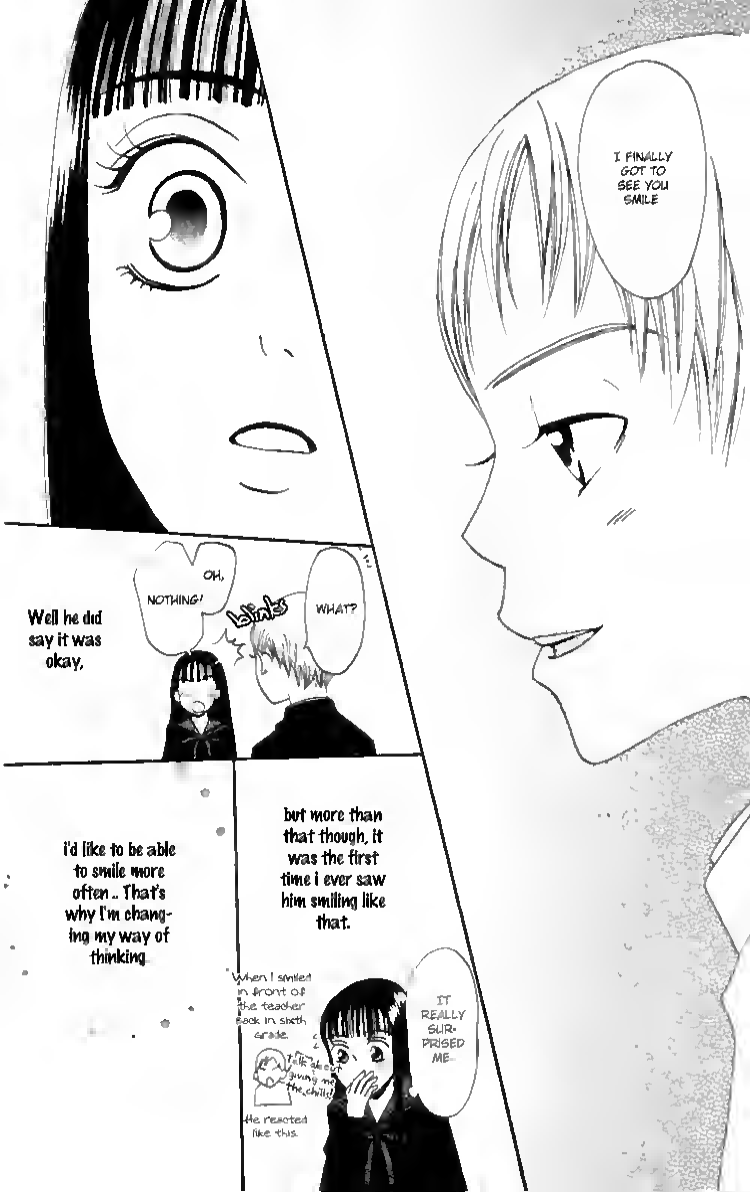


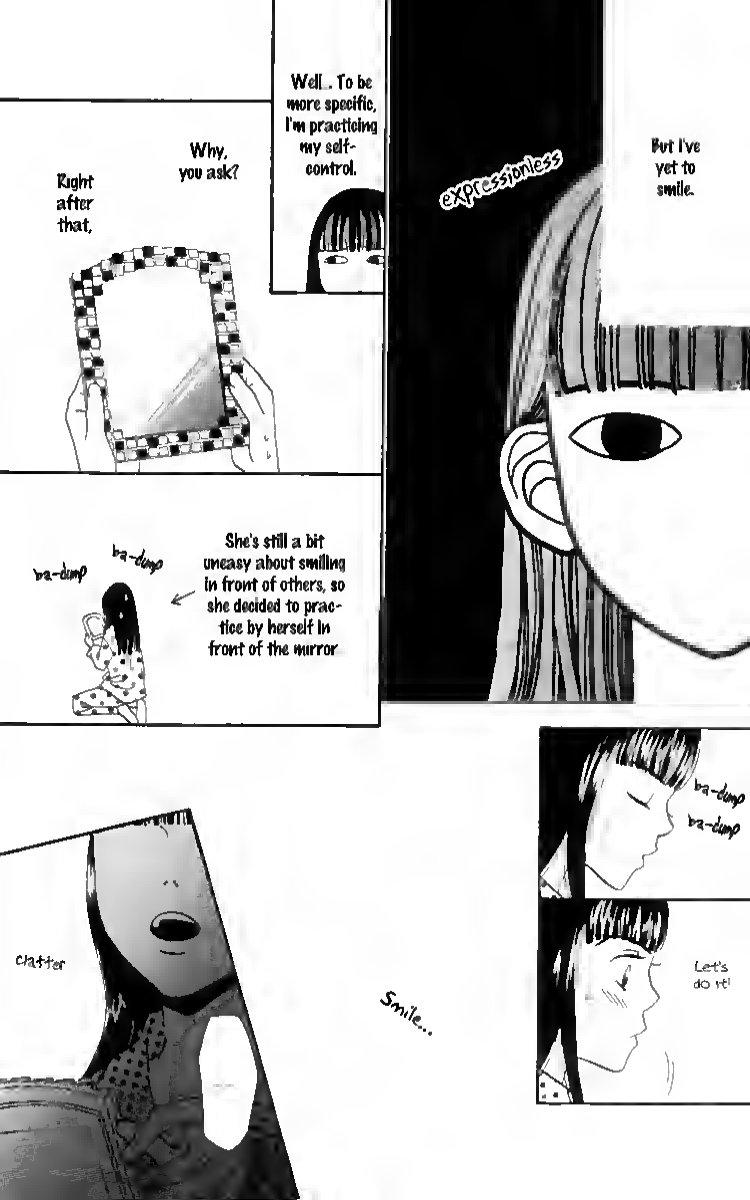
KANAKOOOO!

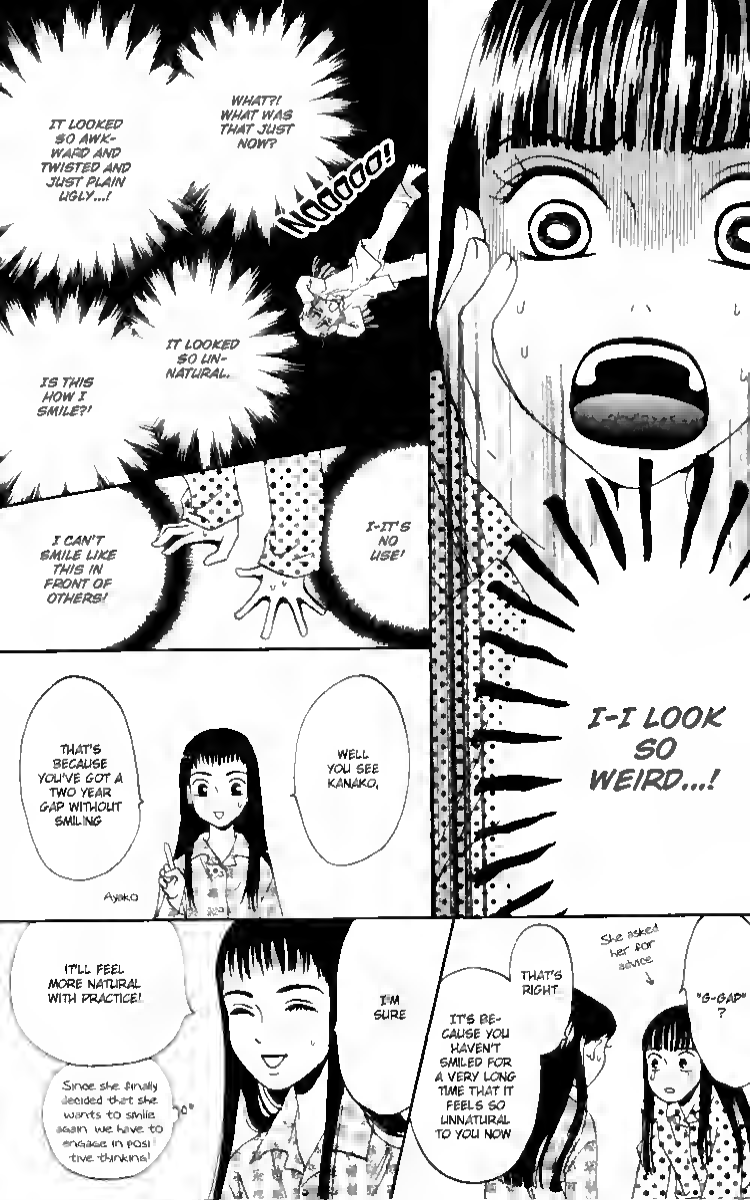
Ishoujo Scans

It's because ever since my friend Akiba Eiji-kun called me "fugly" back in elementary school.
I haven't smiled for two years since...
There's a reason why!, Fuseya Kanako, have been practicing how to smile everyday.
SEE YOU!
YEAH...
YOU REALLY GET THE SENSE THAT IT'S FALL—
That's right... Even when I slipped up and smiled without meaning to in front of Eiji-kun...
slipped up
Sr. Sulk"?
Now that I think back to it that was in April...
But Eiji-kun told me the other day that I shouldn't worry about what I look like when I smile...

THAT'S GREAT!
IT-
IT'S OK.
Silence
SHAKES HEAD
AH!
PLEASE DON'T SAY ANY-THING!
NO...!
YOU SHOULD SMILE WHEN YOU WANT TO JUST LIKE YOU DID NOW!
IT DOESN'T LOOK WEIRD AT ALL!
R-Really...?


I FINALLY GOT TO SEE YOU SMILE
WHAT?
OH, NOTHING!
Blink
Well he did say it was okay,
but more than that though, it was the first time i ever saw him smiling like that.
i'd like to be able to smile more often.. That's why I'm changing my way of thinking
IT REALLY SURPRISED ME..
When I smiled in front of the teacher back in sixth grade.
He reacted like this.


Well... To be more specific, I'm practicing my self-control.
Why, you ask?
Right after that,
expressionless
But I've yet to smile.
She's still a bit uneasy about smiling in front of others, so she decided to practice by herself in front of the mirror
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
Let's do it!
Smile...
chatter


I-I LOOK SO WEIRD...!
WHAT?! WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
IT LOOKED SO AWK-WARD AND TWISTED AND JUST PLAIN UGLY...!
NOOOOO!
IT LOOKED SO UN-NATURAL.
IS THIS HOW I SMILE?!
I-IT'S NO USE!
I CAN'T SMILE LIKE THIS IN FRONT OF OTHERS!
WELL YOU SEE KANAKO,
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT A TWO YEAR GAP WITHOUT SMILING
Ayako
"G-GAP"?
She asked her for advice
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S BE-CAUSE YOU HAVEN'T SMILED FOR A VERY LONG TIME THAT IT FEELS SO UNNATURAL TO YOU NOW
I'M SURE
IT'LL FEEL MORE NATURAL WITH PRACTICE!
Since she finally decided that she wants to smile again, we have to engage in posi-tive thinking!

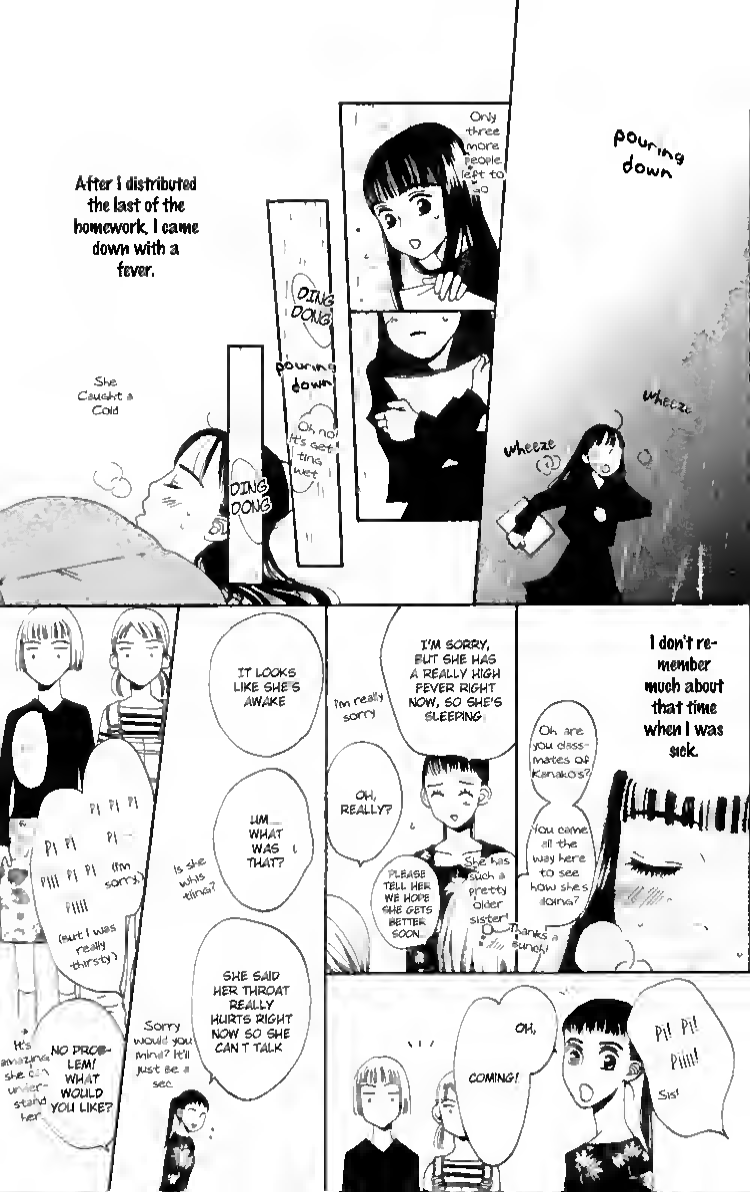
I've been practicing in front of the mirror everyday...
noise
noise
noise
Hey!
Morning!
And so,
JUST DO YOUR BEST WITH YOUR REHABILI-TATION!
Okay?
Rehabilitation?
But I'm trying to prevent even those small lapses...
Sure!
See ya!
There are times I've let my guard down without meaning to and smiled.
At least, until I can smile naturally again.
Hey Reiko-chan!
Morning Ayako!
BUT IT'S WEIRD - THE FIRST TIME SHE HAD TO GET GLASSES, SHE WAS REALLY SET ON NOT GETTING CONTACTS, BUT SHE SUDDENLY STARTED SAYING SHE WANTED TO SWITCH OVER TO THEM
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS THAT MADE HER CHANGE HER MIND SO SUDDENLY
Well I think she looks great with contacts anyhow!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, YOUR SISTER HASN'T BEEN WEARING HER GLASSES LATELY
YEAH,
SHE GOT CONTACTS OVER THE SUMMER
Did she stop wearing them? (That's too sad. They were pretty sunny)
Hya
.....

noise
noise
I-IT'S NOTHING!
GOOD-BYE!
DASHES
....
E-
EIJI-KUN
WHAT'RE YOU CRYING FOR?
OW
HEY THERE'S SOMETHING IN MY EYE
BA DUMP
HEY
Don't tell me.
He said there's nothing for me to worry about..
pitter patter
pitter patter
And so really, I should just talk to him like I did back when we were still in elementary school, but...
Hey it's gone

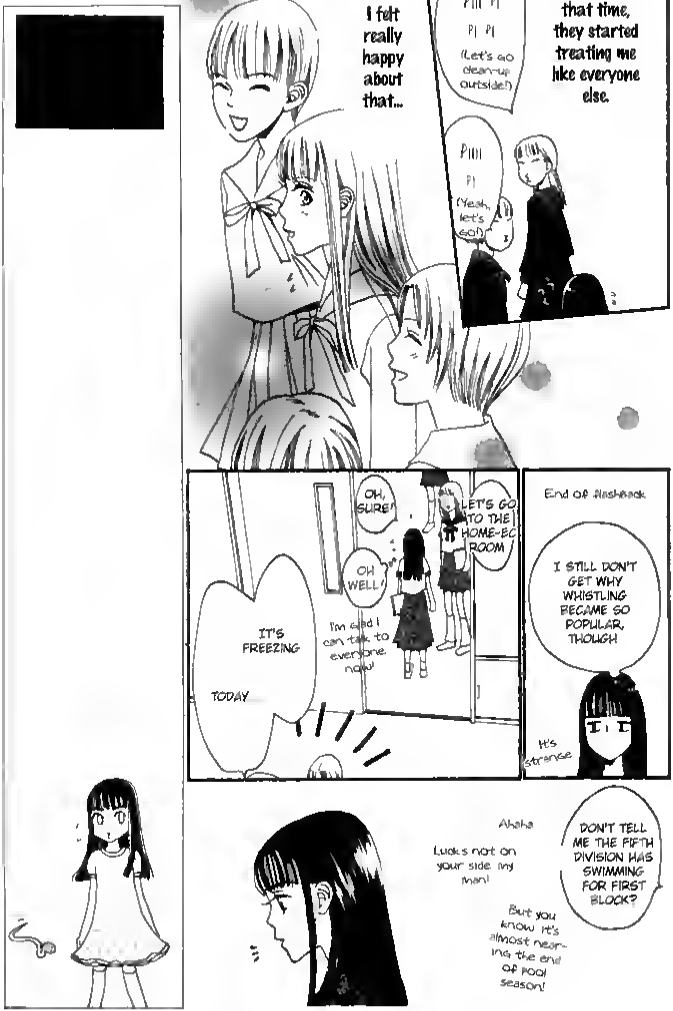
"Take off those glasses."
At first, I didn't really pay any attention to them
"I like you better when.."
Those words...
But once I did, I couldn't get those words out of my head..
"I LIKE YOU BETTER WHEN "
WHAT DID HE PLAN TO SAY AFTER THAT?!
At any rate, I still don't get why he called me "ugly" in the first place so long ago
And why is he always there to help me when I need it?
And not only that,
but that smile...
Even when everyone else accused me of doing something I didn't do, he believed in me..
If he was only going to apologize for it later

I think compared to before...
RATTLE
AH, GOOD MORNING, FUSEYA-SAN!
MORN-ING!
1-4
NOISE
NOISE
When I start thinking about all that stuff, I can't help but feel awkward around him.
Things are going a lot better between me and the other people in my class.
GOOD MORN-ING!
What's up?
Hey!
Morning!
G-
GOOD MORN-ING!
There was an incident a while back that made them lose their trust in me...
But thanks to what happened right before Golden Week...
← Rewind
May 2nd ~ After School
NOOO!
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!
I COMPLETELY FORGOT THAT I HAD TO HAND OUT THE GOLDEN WEEK HOMEWORK FOR GEOGRAPHY TO THE
In charge of Social Studies duties
WHAT?!
FOR REAL?!

I'LL MAKE SURE THAT THEY GET IT!
AH!
FUSEYA-SAN?!
DASHES
Are you sure?
NOT TO MENTION EVERYONE'S GOING GET REALLY PISSED AT ME. I JUST KNOW IT!
THE TEACHER'S GOING TO GET SO MAD AT ME!
In Panic Mode
And we have a test right after we get back from Golden Week too!
UM...
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?!
NOOOO!
A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY GONE HOME!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?!
AS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY GONE HOME...
WHY DON'T YOU QUICKLY HAND OUT THE HOMEWORK TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE STILL HERE?
DING DONG
You came all the way here to give me this? Thanks!
This was the only way I knew how to be of any use to others...
Address Log
It was because...
DING DONG
splash
splash
DING DONG
DING DONG


After I distributed the last of the homework, I came down with a fever.
She Caught a Cold
DING DONG
pouring down
Oh, no! It's getting wet
Only three more people left to go
pouring down
wheeze
wheeze
I don't remember much about that time when I was sick.
Oh, are you classmates of Kanako's?
You came all the way here to see how she's doing?
Thanks a bunch!
I'm really sorry
I'M SORRY, BUT SHE HAS A REALLY HIGH FEVER RIGHT NOW, SO SHE'S SLEEPING
OH, REALLY?
She has such a pretty older sister!
PLEASE TELL HER WE HOPE SHE GETS BETTER SOON
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S AWAKE
UM... WHAT WAS THAT?
Is she who's thirsty?
SHE SAID HER THROAT REALLY HURTS RIGHT NOW SO SHE CAN'T TALK
Sorry would you mind? It'll just be a sec.
Pi Pi Pi
Pi Pi
Pi Pi Pi
Pi Pi
(I'm sorry.)
(Aah! I was really thirsty.)
It's amazing she can understand her.
NO PROBLEM! WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
OH, COMING!
Pi! Pi! Pi!
Sis!

Two days after the end of Golden Week, I came back to school.
cough cough
She's still feeling a bit under the weather.
Pi Pi Piiipi
(Apple juice would be great.)
Piii (Morning!)
Pi Pi Pii (Fuseya-san!)
Pi! (Oh!)
Pi Pi Pi (Morning!)
Piii (Hey!)
And I don't know why, but whistling had become a huge fad in the Fourth Division.
Pi Pi Piiiii Pi Pi
Piiiii Pi Pi
Piiiiiii!
Pi!!
Piiii!
Pi Pi Pi
Pi!
Pii Pi Pi! Pi Pii
ERR THIS CLASS IS REALLY UNIQUE
Pii
Pi Pi
chuckles
Pi!!
Pi Piiii Pi Pi Pi Piiii (Are you feeling better?)
Uuh, it's so low!!
HUH?
Ah, YES!
Pi Pi Piiii Pi Pi Pi (Thanks for the homework sheet!)
Everyone would only talk to me in whistles
W- WHAT'S GOING ON?!


I felt really happy about that...
But from right around that time, they started treating me like everyone else.
Piii Pi Pi Pi (Let's go clean up outside!)
Piii Pi (Yeah, let's go!)
OH, SURE!
LET'S GO TO THE HOME-EC ROOM
OH WELL!
I'm glad I can talk to everyone now!
IT'S FREEZING TODAY
End of flashback
I STILL DON'T GET WHY WHISTLING BECAME SO POPULAR, THOUGH
It's strange
DON'T TELL ME THE FIFTH DIVISION WAS SWIMMING FOR FIRST BLOCK?
Ahaha
Luck's not on your side my man!
But you know it's almost nearing the end of pool season!

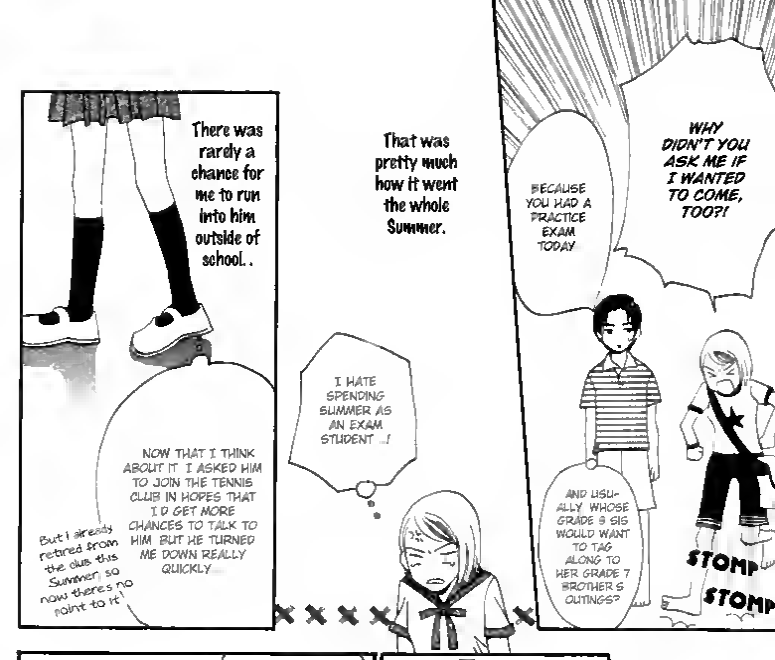
Yay!
HOW! NOSTALGIC!
Kyaa!
Who?
Early August when I was passing by my elementary school's pool...
LONG TIME NO SEE!
HEY, FUSEYA!
By coincidence, I ran into my teacher from sixth grade.
...It reminds me of Summer...
THE POOL, HUH...?
That was great.
chuckles
I was able to talk to him for a bit.
In Charge of the Class!
...HOW'S AKIRA BEEN DOING?
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?
OH, HE'S DOING GREAT!
BUT WE'RE NOT IN THE SAME CLASS ANYMORE SO WE REALLY DON'T RUN INTO EACH OTHER THAT OFTEN...
Oh, but there is something that caught my attention...
He was as kind and wonderful and easy to talk to as ever.
What?
It's probably awkward standing there. Why don't you come over to this side?
Really you don't mind?

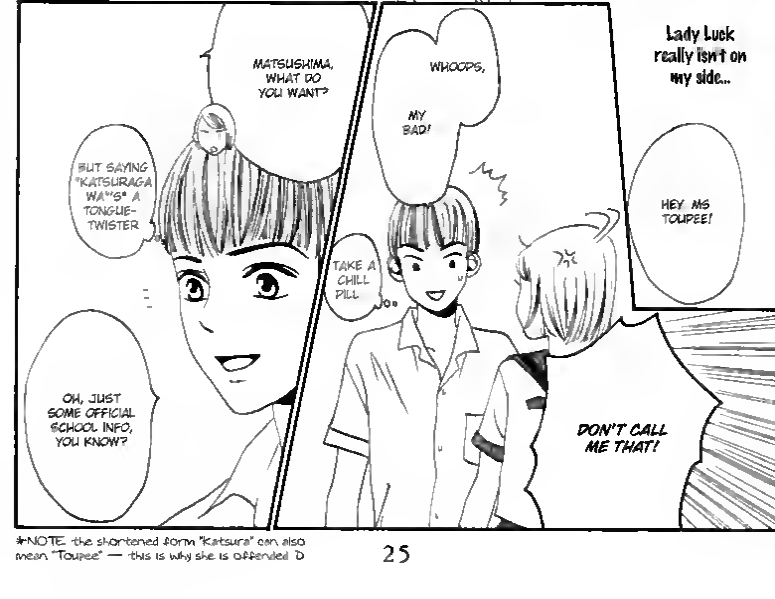
Like whether you want to go anywhere?
YOU KNOW, SINCE THIS IS SUMMER BREAK AND ALL...
OH BY THE WAY... HAS HE COME UP TO YOU TO ASK ANYTHING?
?
NO NOT PARTICULARLY...?
Ah
Smirk
You two are still in seventh grade after all
IS THAT RIGHT? WELL I GUESS THESE THINGS TAKE TIME...
?
?
Hahaha.
noise
noise
HMM?
After School
...I wonder what he meant by that..?

THAT'S AYAKO'S LITTLE SISTER...
...
Ayako's sister, who suddenly stopped wearing glasses...
There's something fishy about all of this...
CRACKLE
Don't tell me something happened between her and Akiba Eiji?!
I know he cleared up the misunderstanding they had...
She didn't actually see this, so she imagined this is how it went
You're not really ugly!
I'm sorry, I didn't mean it!
...But beyond that, I'm clueless!

Reiko's Imagination
Like during the Summer..
Ahahaha...
giggles
splash
They're playing at the beach together
FLIES
HAYA!
Ah!
sparkle
sparkle
chuckles
Now, there's nothing that can hold back your beauty
BA-Dump
Eye-fucks
NOOOOO!
CUT!
There is a good possibility that they might've made some progress without me noticing...!
Even if that didn't actually happen...
Or maybe I hit the bulls-eye?
NOOO! Please, NOOO!

Summer Break, huh...?
Now that I think about it, he did come a couple of times to hang out at my house during the break...
On another day...
I'M BACK!
I'm FOOKED!!
EIJI AND THE OTHERS ARE GONNA COME AND HANG OUT THIS AFTERNOON.
YOU HAVE YOUR SUMMER LESSONS REMEMBER?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, REIKO?
T-THEN I WANT TO BE HERE TOO!
WHAT?!
OH, WELCOME BACK SIS
!?
THUD
Sniff Sniff
W-WHAT?
HMM?
YOU!
YOU WENT TO THE POOL, DIDN'T YOU?!
WHO DID YOU GO WITH?!
HUH...?
HIROE AND EIJI...?


There was rarely a chance for me to run into him outside of school..
But I already retired from the club this Summer so now there's no point to it!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT I ASKED HIM TO JOIN THE TENNIS CLUB IN HOPES THAT I'D GET MORE CHANCES TO TALK TO HIM BUT HE TURNED ME DOWN REALLY QUICKLY
That was pretty much how it went the whole Summer.
I HATE SPENDING SUMMER AS AN EXAM STUDENT ..!
WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK ME IF I WANTED TO COME, TOO?!
BECAUSE YOU HAD A PRACTICE EXAM TODAY
AND USUALLY WHOSE GRADE 9 SIS WOULD WANT TO TAG ALONG TO HER GRADE 7 BROTHER'S OUTINGS?
STOMP
STOMP


MATSUSHIMA, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
BUT SAYING "KATSURAGA WA"'S* A TONGUE-TWISTER
OH, JUST SOME OFFICIAL SCHOOL INFO, YOU KNOW?
WHOOPS, MY BAD!
TAKE A CHILL PILL
Lady Luck really isn't on my side...
HEY MS TOUPEE!
DON'T CALL ME THAT!

*NOTE: the shortened form "Katsura" can also mean "Toupee" — this is why she is offended :D

Shuffle
NONCHALANT AS EVER, I SEE
OH, IS THAT RIGHT...?
I HEARD FROM THE ADVISER THAT TODAY AT 4:00 O'CLOCK THEY'RE HOLDING A MEETING FOR THE GIRLS' TENNIS CLUB THAT INCLUDES THE NINTH GRADERS...
↑ She's the head of the Girls Tennis Team.
↑ He's the head of the Boys Tennis Team.

AH...
turns around
THUMP
WELL, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
AH, YES...
SORRY, ARE YOU OK?
OH! I'm sorry too
...IT'S GONE
EIJI!

MESSAGE FOR YOU~
Kanako's in the Beautification Club?
'SCUSE ME?
COULD YOU TELL KANAKO THAT THE BEAUTIFICATION CLUB MEETING'S BEEN CANCELLED?
Why do I have to?
I looked all over for her but I can't find her!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST WRITE THAT DOWN ON THE BLACKBOARD OR SOMETHING?
'CAUSE ANOTHER CLUB'S USING OUR CLASS FOR A MEETING!
NO, I CAN'T,
THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY!
chuckles
snap...
I KNOW YOU HAVEN'T GOTTEN MUCH OF A CHANCE TO TALK TO HER LATELY, SO...
THEN WHY DON'T YOU WRITE HER A NOTE OR SOMETHING?
You're sticking your head again in a place where it doesn't belong huh?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AND DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T NOTICED HOW YOU HAVEN'T BEEN IN THAT GREAT OF A MOOD SINCE SUMMER BREAK!
JUST DON'T SQUANDER THIS CHANCE ALL RIGHT?
See ya~

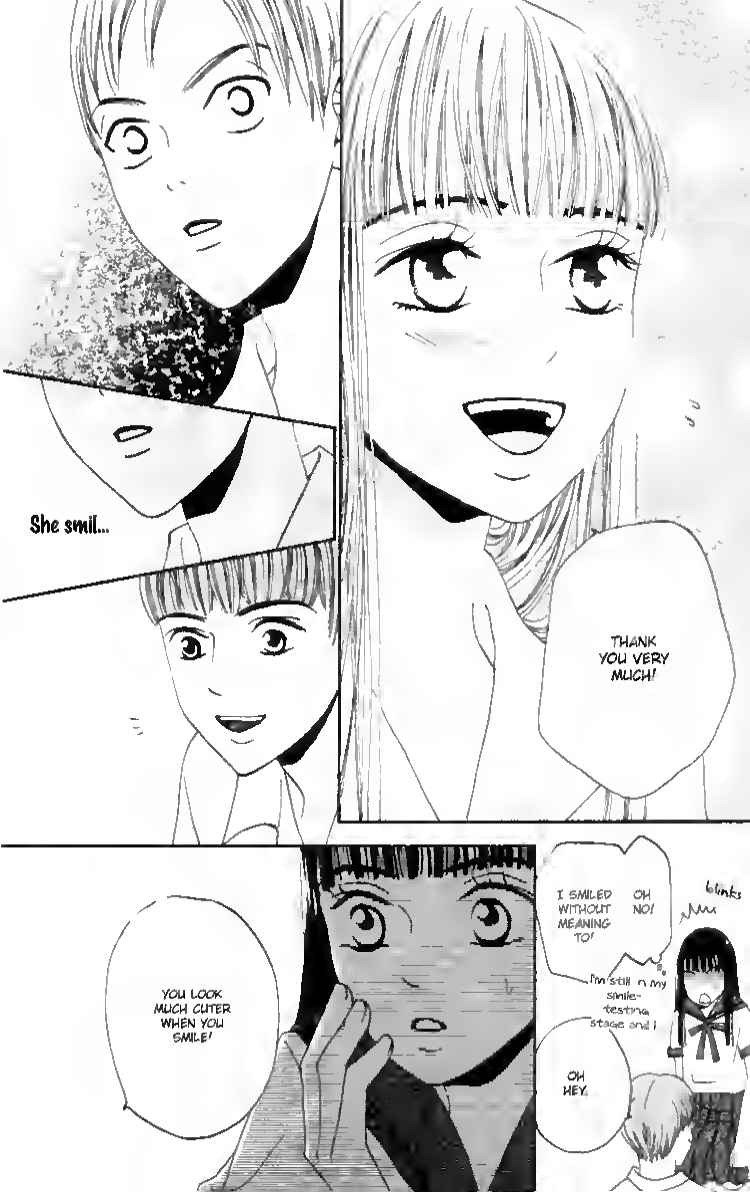
Summer Break, huh..?
We've cleared up the misunderstandings, so why is she still avoiding me?
And she still doesn't smile unless it's some-thing super hilarious.
Just so we're clear here, the reason why I haven't talked to her isn't because I didn't want to.
It's because she's been avoiding me.
Miiin
Miiin
rustle
Summer Break
"And don't think I haven't noticed how you haven't been in that great of a mood since Summer Break!"
I'M SORRY BUT I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY
AH..
DASH
Even when they do run into each other, she's all stiff and makes up an excuse to leave.
noise
noise
noise
kya
kya
noise
noise

Nooooo! Don't!
Cut us some slack!
Kyaa
Stop saying such ridiculous things or else I'm going to spray this water at you!
But you seem to be in an awfully good mood! Haha
Yeah, your face is all lax ya know?
What are you talking about? She's a former student of mine who used to go to school here!
Hey teach, who's that? Ohhh~ Is she your girlfriend?
-Huh? Really? Are you sure that's all it is?!
Take that! Be a man, don't run away!
...She smiled...
SPLASH

IF SHE WANTS TO HANG OUT?
WHY NOT ASK FUSEYA
LIKE I COULD EVER DO THAT!
WHO'D WANNA HANG OUT WITH A...
WELL, SINCE IT IS SUMMER BREAK AND ALL
WHAT'RE YOU SO PISSED FOR??
WHAT'S GOTTEN YOU DOWN THIS TIME?
C'MON, CHEER UP!
splash
splash
YEAH I AGREE
whispers
I BET A HUNDRED BUCKS IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH FUSEYA
...JUST FORGET IT
He really is stubborn isn't he?
I give up
END

Why does she have to have a soft spot for older guys anyway...
SIGH.
IT'S NO USE...
YOUR CONTACTS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
OH
P-PLEASE DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL BE FINE SEARCHING FOR IT MYSELF.
SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LEAVE
OH,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR IT UNTIL YOU FIND IT.
Thank you very much for helping me search for it

AND BESIDES, I'M NOT THE KIND OF GUY WHO CAN JUST LEAVE A GIRL IN NEED OF HELP BY HERSELF. YOU KNOW?
I'M THE ONE WHO BUMPED INTO YOU. SO I'M THE ONE AT FAULT.
That's how it fell out in the first place, right?
BUT...
BA-DUMP
OH, DON'T MOVE AN INCH
swish
HE'S REALLY GROWN-UP...
HE'S SO NICE
He's in 3rd grade I think
HERE IT IS!
IT WAS STUCK TO THE EDGE OF YOUR COLLAR
WHAT?!
OH SO THAT'S WHERE IT WAS
I never even noticed it.
I'M SO RELIEVED WE WERE ABLE TO FIND IT!
Y-YES!


She smil...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YOU LOOK MUCH CUTER WHEN YOU SMILE!
I SMILED WITHOUT MEANING TO!
OH NO!
I'm still in my smile-testing stage and I
blinks
OH HEY.

swish
What..?
WELL, BYE
<END OF CHAPTER>
Jshouse
Scans

Ishoujo Scans

Translator Oceansportrait
Proofreader SultrySiren
Cleaner Ausen
Typesetter Amatsu
QCer Vally

CHAPTER 06

The reason why she can't smile

The Reason Why
She Can't Smile

OH RIGHT. I STILL HAVE TO PASS ON THAT MESSAGE
blinks
There's no denying it... She smiled like there was no tomorrow at that guy!
...She smiled.
HEY!
FLINCH

A little info about a character: Hiroo

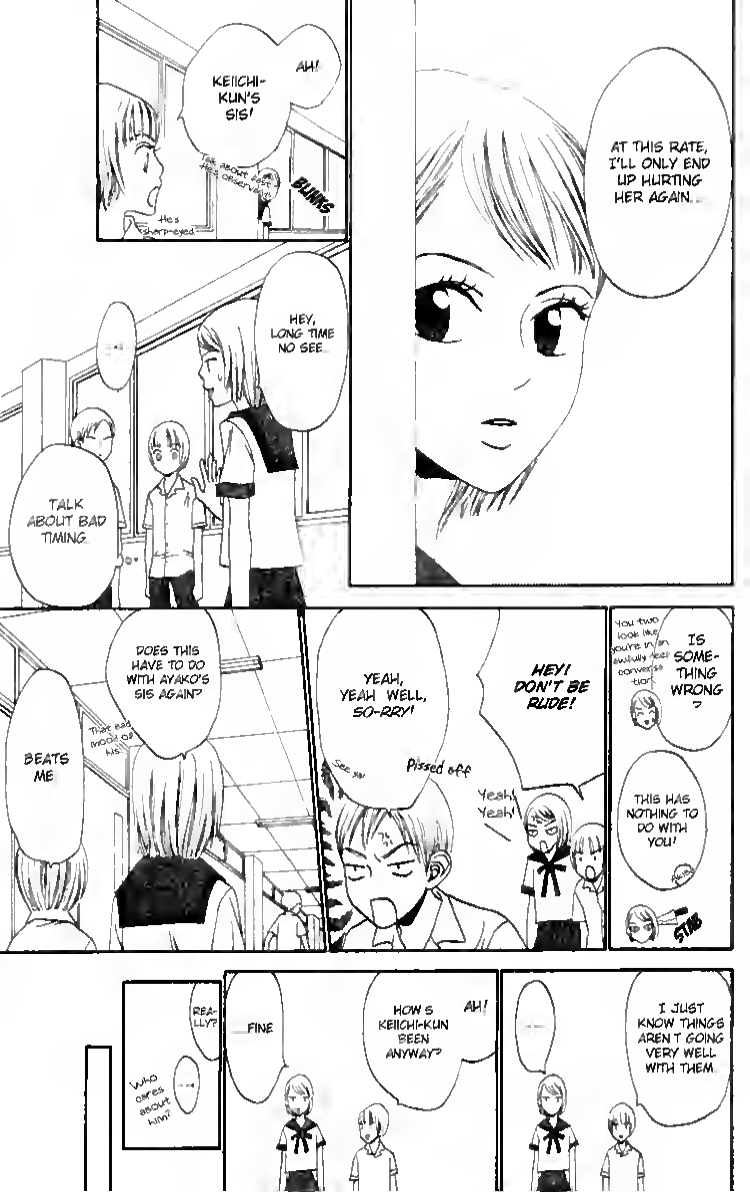
One of Eiji's friends.
I must admit I'm quite fond of his laid back "I move at my own pace" attitude.
It's just I can't help, but get frustrated at myself because most of the time he just gets relegated to being Eiji's sidekick more than anything.
But when I think about how, if I get rid of his laid back demeanor, there probably wouldn't be that many chances for him to show up in the story, so I keep him the way he is.

SNIP
EIJI-KUN ...
edges away
OH!
TALK ABOUT DOING A COMPLETE ONE-EIGHTY!
I'VE GOT A MESSAGE FOR YOU
THE BEAUTIFICATION CLUB MEETING'S BEEN CANCELLED
HUH? BUT I KNOW THAT ALREADY, THOUGH
Since I lost the news during lunch...
SMACK
THAT LITTLE TWIRP!
The wall
Could you pass on the message?
FLINCH
glances
pissed off
blinks
I'M ACTING LIKE A BRAT
blink
blink
HE'S ANGRY...?
blink
blink
HE'S SCARY...
squeeze
I don't know why.
but I feel really pissed off!

Why does this get me so angry...?
...
flinch
flinch
It's not like it's anything new that she shrinks back in fear when I'm around,
but still...
Weren't you the one relieved about her getting back the ability to smile?!
"UGLY!"
BLINK
"YOU REALLY THINK YOU LOOK CUTE WHEN YOU LAUGH? HA!"
"STOP SMILING, UGLY!"
No!
I WANT TO TELL HER THAT...
I want to make it so that she doesn't smile ever again!
squeeze
What are you saying?!
What's wrong with you?

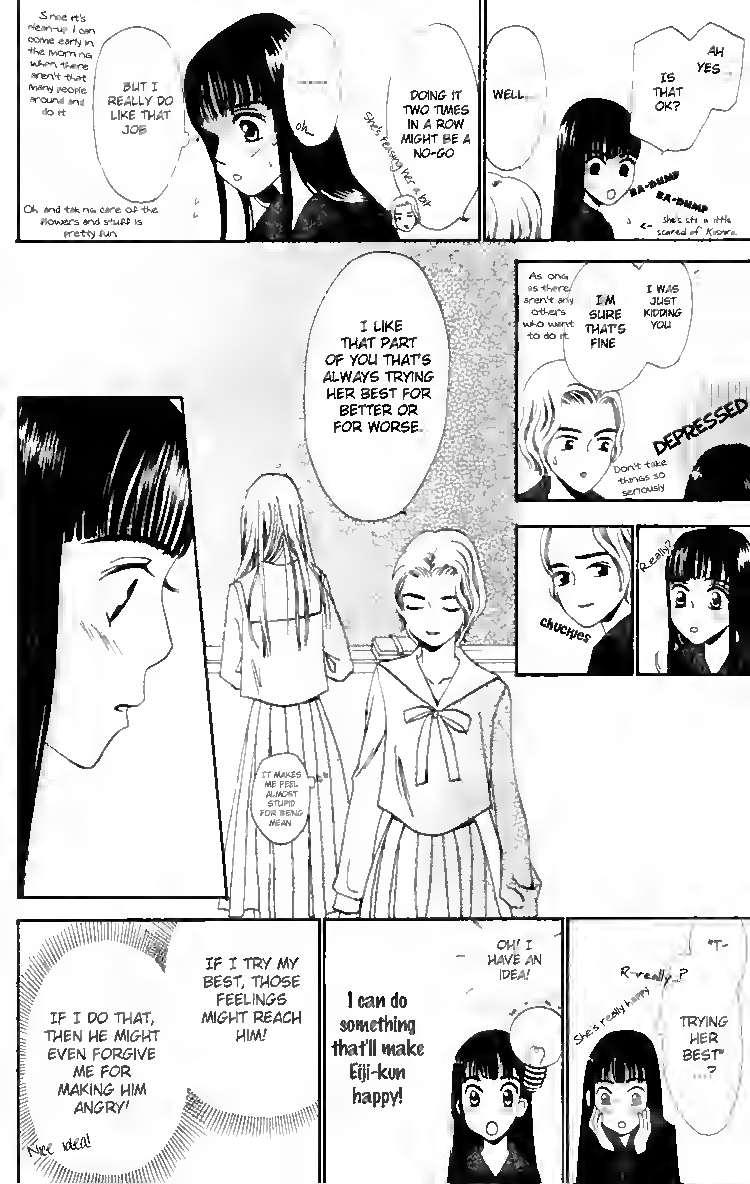
It's only been a short while since the misunderstandings were straightened out...
IF SHE'S ONLY GOING TO SMILE FOR OTHERS...
It'll be like nothing was ever cleared up!
Ah
swish
-EIJI -KUN?
?
Pitter patter
Pitter patter
Mm
EIJI!
Mm
frozen
SO, DID YOU PASS ON THAT MESSAGE FOR ME?
SNAP
YOU...
You little!

Meeting Room
noise
noise
WELL, THAT'LL BE THE END OF THE MEETING
DON'T FORGET THAT THE EIGHTH GRADERS HAVE TO MEET AT THE COURTS TEN MINUTES FROM NOW!
Yes!
HUH?! BUT WHY?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY"?
DON'T TRY PULLING A TRICK LIKE THIS WHEN IT INVOLVES KANAKO. ALL RIGHT?
FROM NOW ON,
turns away
IT'S BEST IF I JUST PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US FOR NOW...
RIGHT NOW, WHEN I'M AROUND KANAKO, I GET INTO THIS REALLY FOUL MOOD.
I HAVE TO LITERALLY HOLD MYSELF BACK FROM SAYING TERRIBLE THINGS TO HER.
SHHHH!
REIKO-CHAN?
DASHES
YOU HAVE TO CREATE DISTANCE? BUT WHY?
What are you talking about?
HUH?
HMM?
noise
noise


AH!
KEIICHI-KUN'S SIS!
Talk about bad timing
He's flustered
BLINK
HEY, LONG TIME NO SEE
TALK ABOUT BAD TIMING
AT THIS RATE, I'LL ONLY END UP HURTING HER AGAIN...
DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH AYAKO'S SIS AGAIN?
That kid moved on his!
BEATS ME
YEAH, YEAH WELL, SO-RRY!
HEY! DON'T BE RUDE!
Pissed off
See ya
Yeah, Yeah
You two look like you're in an awfully deep conversation
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
Hmph
STOMP
I JUST KNOW THINGS AREN'T GOING VERY WELL WITH THEM...
AH!
HOW'S KEIICHI-KUN BEEN ANYWAY?
FINE
REALLY?
Who cares about him?

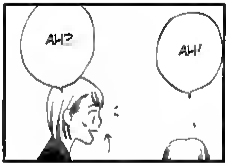
We've entered the month of October.
Morning!
Morning! You know yesterday...
NOW THAT WE'VE SWITCHED UNIFORMS IT DOES FEEL MORE LIKE WINTER.
Hey!
Blinks
I have a feeling Eiji-kun's been avoiding me lately.
On one hand I feel relieved that I don't have to feel all nervous.
but there's this strange sharp prick I feel somewhere around here.
Prick
Prick
I WONDER WHY HE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME?!

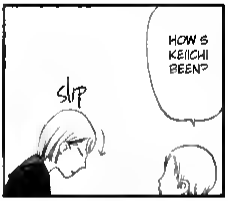
I... was... just... by... hurt this much...
DID I UNKNOWINGLY DO SOMETHING TO UPSET HIM ?!
Now that I think about it, though... The one who did the avoiding first was me.
I didn't even realize it until I was the one being avoided
noise
noise
FOR HOMEROOM WE'LL BE DECIDING WHO'LL BE DOING DUTIES FOR THIS NEXT TERM.
How can I get him to forgive me?
FUSEYA SAN YOU BETTER GET GOING AND WRITE YOUR NAME DOWN.
Or else all the good ones will be taken.
flinch
AH!
THAT COULD BE THE REASON WHY HE'S BEEN SO ANGRY WITH ME
What should I do ..?
noise
noise
No way! You're going to be a student council member?
Why not?
noise
WRITE DOWN YOUR NAME ON THE BOARD FOR THE DUTIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE IN CHARGE OF
Well do a drawing later for those with multiple requests
noise
FUSEYA-SAN ARE YOU GOING TO BE A BEAUTIFICATION CLUB MEMBER AGAIN?
HEY.


Since it's clean-up I can come early in the morning when there aren't that many people around and do it
BUT I REALLY DO LIKE THAT JOB
Oh, and tak na care of the flowers and stuff is pretty fun.
oh
DOING IT TWO TIMES IN A ROW MIGHT BE A NO-GO
She's really not a fan
WELL...
IS THAT OK?
AH YES
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
She's bit a little scared of Kisara.
I LIKE THAT PART OF YOU THAT'S ALWAYS TRYING HER BEST FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE.
As one as there aren't any others who want to do it
I'M SURE THAT'S FINE
I WAS JUST KIDDING YOU
DEPRESSED
Don't take things so seriously
chuckles
Really?
IT MAKES ME FEEL ALMOST STUPID FOR BEING MEAN
IF I DO THAT, THEN HE MIGHT EVEN FORGIVE ME FOR MAKING HIM ANGRY!
IF I TRY MY BEST, THOSE FEELINGS MIGHT REACH HIM!
Nice idea!
I can do something that'll make Eiji-kun happy!
OH! I HAVE AN IDEA!
"T-
R-really_?
She's really funny
TRYING HER BEST"...?

Jshoujo
Scans
!
BUT WHAT WOULD MAKE HIM HAPPY?
1-1
HEY, AKIBA!
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
...
YOU AGAIN?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
The glass window
JUST CAME TO SEE HOW YOU WERE DOING
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR
Got a problem with that?
Do all ninth graders have as much free time as you?
Shouldn't you be off studying or something?
I am. No need for you to worry.

This side panel wasn't translated xD
Sorry~


AH?
AH!


HOW'S KEIICHI BEEN?
slrp

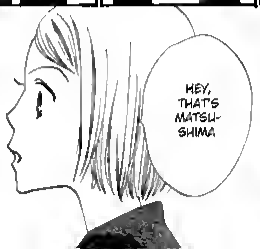
Girly face first and now him?
...
HE'S DOING FINE

...
IT'S JUST, YOU SEEM PRETTY DOWN LATELY, YOU KNOW?
SO WHAT? YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
...

HMM?

HEY
THERE'S AYAKO'S LITTLE SIS!
BA-DUMP

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THEY WERE FRIENDS


HEY, THAT'S MATSU-SHIMA

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE OTHER DAY
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE GETTING ALONG PRETTY WELL TOO!
NO
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
OH, SEE? IT'S THAT THE WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM REALLY SUITS YOU!!
ARE YOU IN E GUITH GWIDE ?
turns
ducks
D-ING
HUH, I GET IT!
I BET YOU'RE JEALOUS !
NO WAY!
WELL, SURE
FOR A KID WHO'S STILL ONLY IN EIGHTH GRADE
IT'D BE ONLY NATURAL TO FALL FOR A KIND, MATURE, ALL-ENCOMPASSING (OR SO HE LOOKS) UPPER-CLASSMAN
She's probably like all "Kyaa~ Senpai!" ♡
RATHER THAN A STUBBORN BRAT THE SAME AGE AS HER!
HEY, AYAKO'S LIL SIS MIGHT JUST BE LIKE ANOTHER ONE OF HIS FANS
Well it's true that he's nice
Do your best! Kya~
Kyaa~ Senpai!
HAHA THANKS!
THEY'RE BEING DECEIVED
EVERY TIME I SEE IT THOUGH, I HAVE A HARD TIME BELIEVING IT
ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE THOUGH, MATSUSHIMA IS PRETTY POPULAR WITH THE YOUNGER GIRLS

DON'T TELL ME I HIT THE BULL'S-EYE?!
...
UH...
Depressed
I-
I WAS JUST KIDDING!
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT!
OK?
SO LIGHT-EN UP!
HEY,
THAT'S THE BELL
dingg dongg
WELL, SEE YOU LATER.
pats
Cheer up you hear me?
dinggg
donggg
pater patter patter

If I had just left him like that, he might have slipped further into depression...
and the distance between them might have grown even further.
prater patter
Don't tell me..
I just let a huge opportunity slip past me?
Should I think about it.
STAND
clatter
That could have been my chance to make my move
I was just kidding! There's nothing for you to worry about!
Ugh... It's no use thinking about that now, though.
And besides, I wouldn't have been able to look the other way after seeing him so down.
3-2
noise
noise
REIKO-CHAN!
swish
HEY,
AYAKO!
THEY SAID IT'S FREE BLOCK.
He's not here yet
Where's the teacher?
WE'RE JUST HAVING HOMEROOM RIGHT NOW.
I'm too nice for my own good!

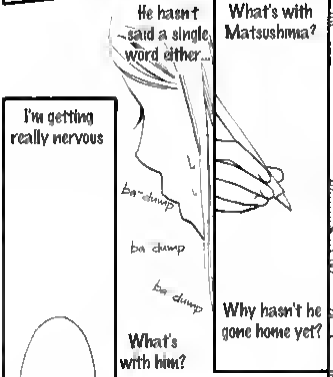
OHHH~ THAT SOUNDS GOOD!
I'll do that one!
THE BEAUTIFICATION CLUB'S STILL OPEN.
You've got identical duties mark?
I'D PREFER SOMETHING PRETTY EASY
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, REIKO-CHAN?
YEAH
OH SO WHAT? WE'RE DECIDING WHO GETS WHICH DUTIES THIS TERM?
noise
noise
HUMM
WHERE'S THE ERASER?!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M DOING THIS WITH YOU!
didn't realize you were here
YOU'RE BACKING OUT?
HUH?
HEY?
I already wrote down my name, though.
THE GUY IS MATSUSHIMA
BUT
Beautification Club Members
Male: Matsushima
Female: Katsuragawa
don't wear grudges towards others
What's wrong with me being nice?
AYAKO JUST SO YOU KNOW HE WAS HITTING ON YOUR LIL SIS JUST NOW
HUH ?!!
THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT YOU.
IF IT'S WITH YOU, IT'LL BE PRETTY LAID BACK, AND WE'LL HAVE A BLAST
WHY? YOU SHOULD DO IT!

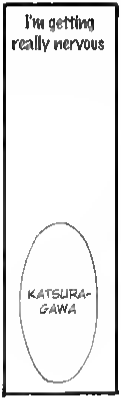
Well, he does make a good friend and all...
I swear to God!
I didn't do anything! I swear! I was just being nice to her!
"NICE" HUH?
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS FUSEYA'S SISTER!
What?! Your sister?
Is that true?
Flashback: To her seventh grade years
SPLONK
SPLONK
Part 2
HUH?
THOSE SENIORS WERE HARSH TO YOU, SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE FEELING DOWN?
Part 1
HEY KATSURAGAWA
WE GET TO START PRACTICING WITH THE WALL FROM NOW ON!
She's still in charge of collecting the balls.
I'll take you home ever to finish it yourself.
I GUESS I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE
I'LL LEND YOU A HAND.
Part 3
HEY YOU RE CLEANING UP THE COURT ALL BY YOURSELF?
HOW ABOUT THIS? I CAN HELP YOU PRACTICE!
CHEER UP!
OK?

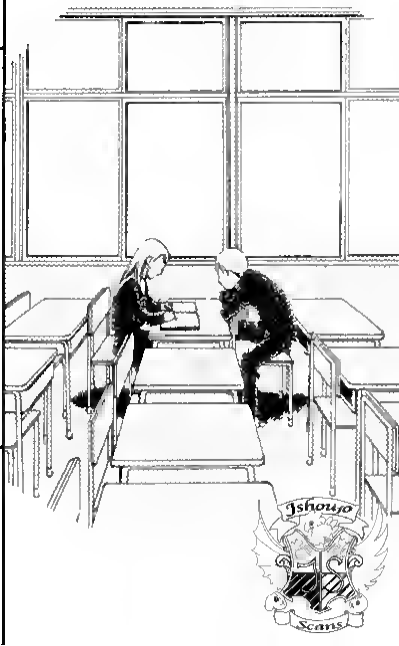
No way that could ever happen
AS IF
I BET MATSUSHIMA HAS A THING FOR REIKO!
MATSUSHIMA AND REIKO SURE SEEM TO GET ALONG WELL~
YEAH
LIKE THAT WOULD EVER HAPPEN
YEAH SHE'S PROBABLY RIGHT

Part 4

Part 5







Jshoujo Scans

TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, I'VE LIKED YOU FOR A VERY LONG TIME...
JUST KIDDING!
R-REALLY?!
HUH?!
LOOKS UP
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT I WAS SERIOUS!
Ahahahaha
What a moron!
TIGGED OFF
Ahahahaa Well see ya!
I DON'T REALLY BEAR HIM ANY GRUDGE ...
IT'S JUST THAT I'M SO PISSED OFF AT MYSELF FOR EVEN ALLOWING MY HEART TO SKIP A BEAT OVER HIM.
I can't believe I was deceived by a jerk like him!
AND NOT ONLY THAT...

WELL THEN, I GUESS IT'S BEEN DECIDED! MATSUSHIMA-KUN AND KATSURAGAWA-SAN!
Yay!
clap clap
NO!
WHAT?!
He gets along with everyone.
Oh, I have the DVD for that one. Want to borrow it?
Really? That would be awe some ♥
I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN OVER HOW I COULD EVEN THINK HE WAS PAYING SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ME WHEN HE'S THE RESIDENT SOCIAL BUTTERFLY
That's why I decided to avoid Matsushima as much as possible ever since.
IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE A BEAUTIFICATION CLUB MEMBER?
wish
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME
She agreed to erase her name off the blackboard because she was so busy running one
OK...AND NEXT FOR THE LUNCH DUTIES
-After School-
nurse
1-1
Hey Akira, where's your committee looking this meeting?
I think it's in 2-5
I FEEL REALLY NERVOUS BEING IN SUCH CLOSE PROXIMITY TO HIM
OH, MINE'S IN 2-4! LET'S HEAD THERE TOGETHER LATER, ALL RIGHT?
SURE
swish
Which class room is it in again?
Let's head to practice!
See ya

CRUNCH
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I SECRETLY SLIPPED IN COOKIES I MADE YESTERDAY INTO HIS DESK
Of course, she's the one who cleans it
I don't know if he'll like them, but I hope he does.
I'LL COME BACK FOR IT LATER.
I'M LEAVING IT.
ARE YOU TAKING YOUR BAG WITH YOU?
YOU KNOW, I'VE NOTICED THIS BEFORE... BUT YOU REALLY DO KEEP YOUR DESK NEAT, DON'T YOU?
It's something clean.
BUT WATCHING HIM FROM THE SHADOWS LIKE THIS IS KIND OF FUN...
I want to see how he usually acts.
HUH?
YOU THINK SO?
.....!!
HEY DIDN'T YOU HEAR A WEIRD SOUND JUST NOW?
HUH?
YOU HEARD SOMETHING?
He shoved his textbooks inside
It's probably all in your imagination.
WHAT?
YOU AGAIN?
noise
noise
THAT'S MY SISTER'S FRIEND
Reiko-san (So she's in the Beautification Committee too?)
I HAVE MY COMMITTEE MEETING IN YOUR CLASS TODAY!
You know the Beautification Club Meeting!
AKIBA!
SURE
WELL, ANYWAY! LET'S GO
SOS SOS SOS

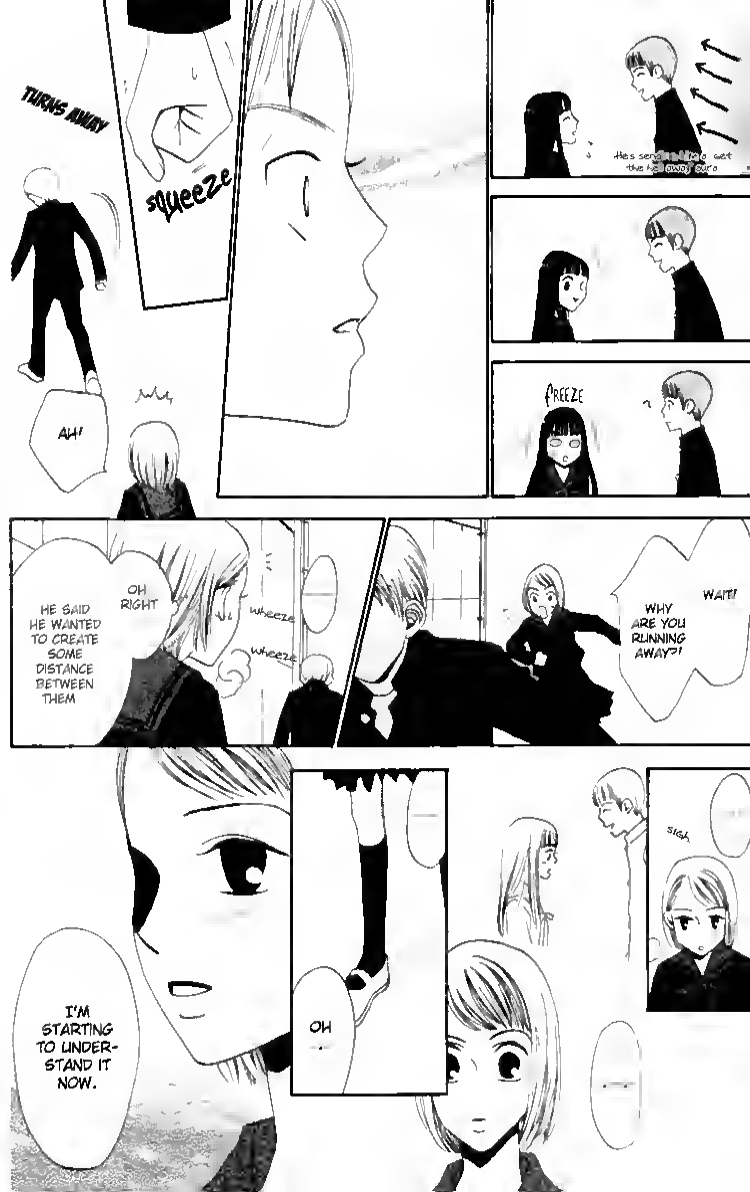
HEY, WOULD YOU MIND GIVING THIS BACK TO KEIICHI FOR ME?
OH
SURE BUT-
WHAT AM I?! YOUR PERSONAL MESSENGER?! AM I THE POST OFFICE?!
Let's talk about something besides Keiichi for once!
AND TELL HIM THANKS FOR LENDING ME THE CD THE OTHER DAY, WILL YOU?
OW, OW...
THEY SEEM REALLY CLOSE...
LIKE WHAT? IT'S NOT AS IF WE HAVE ANYTHING IN COMMON BESIDES HIM!
WELL WE CAN ALWAYS START FINDING SOME!
NOISE
NOISE
MAYBE SHE HAS A THING FOR HIM?
YEAH, BUT SHE SURE DOES COME HERE AN AWFUL LOT.
NO IDEA... I HEARD THAT SHE'S HIS FRIEND'S OLDER SIS, THOUGH.
WHAT'S GOING ON BETWEEN HER AND AKIO?
HEY,
BUT SHE'S IN NINTH GRADE, ISN'T SHE?
No way! For real?
.....

The front row goes to the First Division
SIT ACCORDING TO YOUR NUMBER STARTING FROM THE WINDOW ALL RIGHT?
LAST CALL FOR BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS!
WE'RE STARTING THE MEETING!
nurse
nurse
What is this? Why does my heart feel so heavy...?
I GET TO SIT AT EIJI-KUN'S DESK!
blinks
I BETTER TAKE IT HOME WITH ME
YOU THERE!
squish..
ba-dump
I'M SORRY FOR SNOOPING WITHOUT ASKING
clatter
ba-dump ba-dump
PSST. YOU THERE!
WELL THEN WE'LL BE STARTING OUR FIRST MEETING FOR THE SECOND TERM OF THE BEAUTIFICATION CLUB
COULD YOU...
UNLOCK THE DOOR?
.....

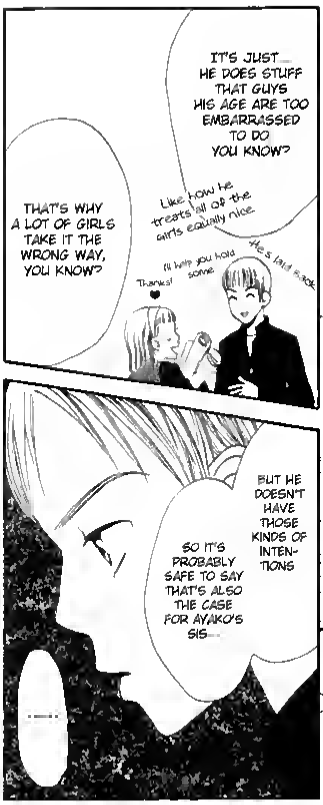
rustle
click
creak
YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER!
WHAT'S UP?
AH
I JUST DROPPED MY ERASER
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
YOU'RE ON THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE TOO?
AH, YES!
HEY?

WELL, SEE YOU LATER
AH, SURE
OH, IT'S JUST YOU MATSU-SHIMA.
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
TAKE A SEAT QUICKLY!
SURE
3-2 sits in the back
HEY, YOU THERE!
WE KNOW YOU CAME IN LATE!
It's obvious
AH

AH,
AKIBA!
noise
noise
1-1
IS THE MEETING OVER IN THIS CLASSROOM?
YEAH, IT'S OK TO GO IN NOW
noise
noise
noise
noise
WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME FOR A SECOND TO THE STAFF ROOM?
BUT WHY...?
SNAP...
Oh, shit!
HE SPOTTED THEM
THAT'S MY DESK.
Thanks for opening the door for me earlier.
It was nothing!
noise
noise
shoujo


TURNS AWAY
squeeze
AH!
He's sending a message that he's giving up.
FREEZE
WAIT!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?!
OH RIGHT
HE SAID HE WANTED TO CREATE SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN THEM
wheeze
wheeze
SIGH
OH
I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND IT NOW.

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, AYAKO MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT HOW HER SIS HAS A SOFT SPOT FOR OLDER GUYS
On one hand, he's relieved that she's regained her ability to laugh.
but at the same time, he's engaged in an inner struggle against himself.
PICK
HE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT.
By her not smiling,
he could fulfill his desire to keep her all to himself.
YOU... CALLING HER UGLY AND ALL THAT...
WAS YOUR WAY OF PLACING A DEEP SPELL ON HER.


IT'S JUST... HE DOES STUFF THAT GUYS HIS AGE ARE TOO EMBARRASSED TO DO YOU KNOW?
Like how he treats all of the girls equally nice.
He's laid back.
I'll help you hold some.
Thanks!
THAT'S WHY A LOT OF GIRLS TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY, YOU KNOW?
BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE THOSE KINDS OF INTENTIONS
SO IT'S PROBABLY SAFE TO SAY THAT'S ALSO THE CASE FOR AYAKO'S SIS...
.....

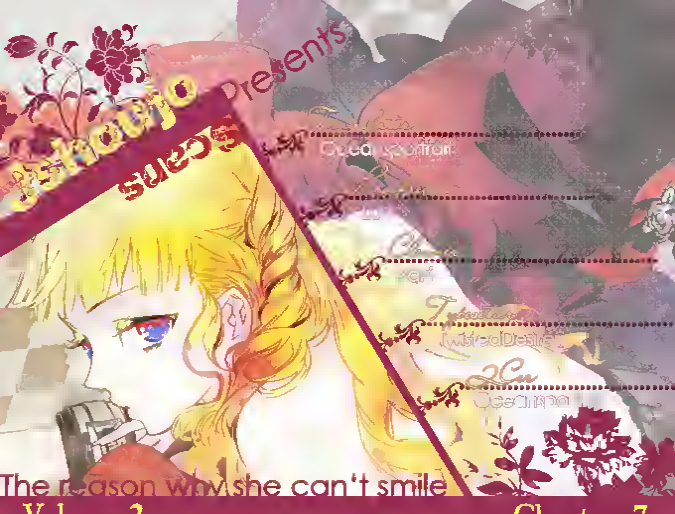
HE
I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AND SPORTS TEAM AS HIM, SO I KNOW HIM PRETTY WELL.
HE PUTS UP A FRONT LIKE HE'S A BIG-SHOT, BUT INSIDE HE'S STILL PRETTY MUCH A KID

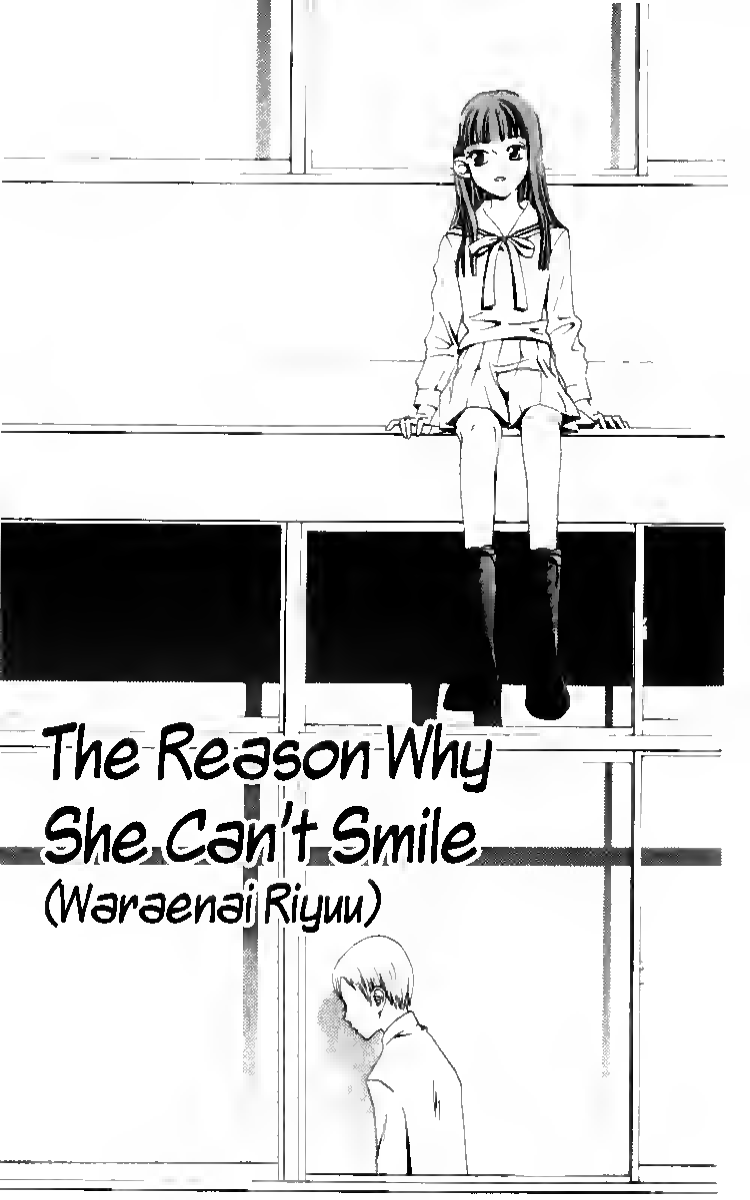
I'm only dragging myself further down into the ground.
Why do I always have to reassure him that it'll be ok?
I should just leave it alone...

.....
Here I go again.

But I just can't look the other way when I see him so down
I THINK THAT'S PRETTY MATURE OF YOU
Yeah, yeah.
THE REASON YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO CREATE SOME DISTANCE WAS SO YOU COULD EXERCISE SELF-CONTROL,
SO THAT YOU DON'T HURT HER.
AND LIKE YOU KNOW
YOU'VE GROWN UP A LOT RECENTLY!

<END OF CHAPTER 7>


Presents
Sweets
The reason why she can't smile
Volume 2
Chapter 7



The Reason Why She Can't Smile

(Waraenai Riyuu)

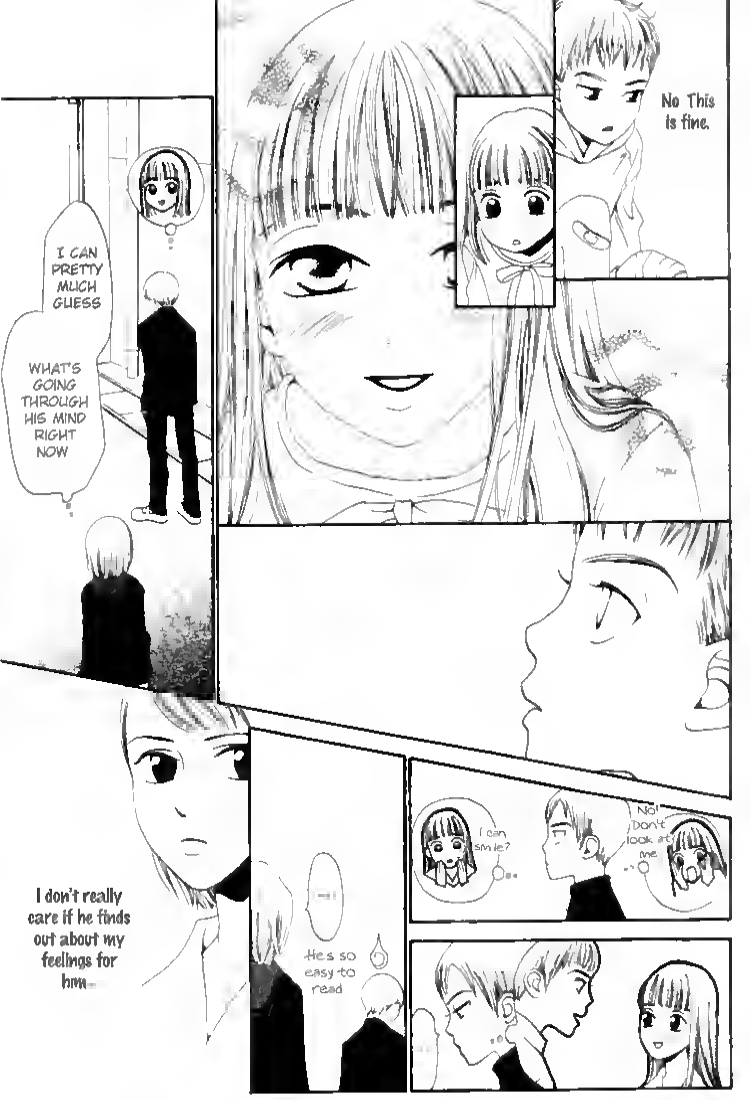
I've been watching you for the longest time now...
ba-dump
"HOW?" WELL, THAT'S BE-CAUSE...
"How is it...that you understand me so well, anyway?"
ba-dump

A little info about a character: Keuchi

Eiji's Friend #2.
Now that we're really getting to the minor characters, I really don't have much to say...
I made this character up though, thinking how annoying it'd be to have a younger brother like this.
Maybe it's just me, but I feel like siblings who're not the sharpest tools in the shed would be the cutest. Excuses, excuses. I know.

If I do...then it'll be just like a love confession!
OH,
RIGHT.
ba-dump
ba-dump
S-
Should I say it?
ba-dump
HUH?
IS IT FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE AS AN OLDER SISTER?
Should I tell him?!
WELL, LIKE YOU HAVE KEIICHI FOR A BROTHER.
AND EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE THE WAY YOU ARE, YOU ARE A BIG SIS, AFTER ALL.
SO, IT KIND OF MAKES SENSE THAT YOU'D NOTICE STUFF THAT I MAY HAVE OVERLOOKED.
What do you mean "even though you are the way you are"?
IF THAT'S NOT IT,
THEN I GUESS IT COMES FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A SENIOR, HM?
I said I'm fine!

What happened?!
I'll just wash it with some water and it'll be fine!
No! What if any bacteria had already set in?!
No you have to go to the nurse's office and get it patched up!
You're making a big fuss over nothing!
Did you get hurt when you fell off your bike?!
D-does it hurt?! It probably does, doesn't it?
Oh Sorry, it's so messy. but my mom and older sister aren't home right now.
You can come to my house. I'll patch you up.
Would you like for me to do it over?
Talk about a half-assed attempt at bandaging.
Patched up


No This is fine.
I CAN PRETTY MUCH GUESS
WHAT'S GOING THROUGH HIS MIND RIGHT NOW
I can smile?
NO! Don't look at me
He's so easy to read
I don't really care if he finds out about my feelings for him

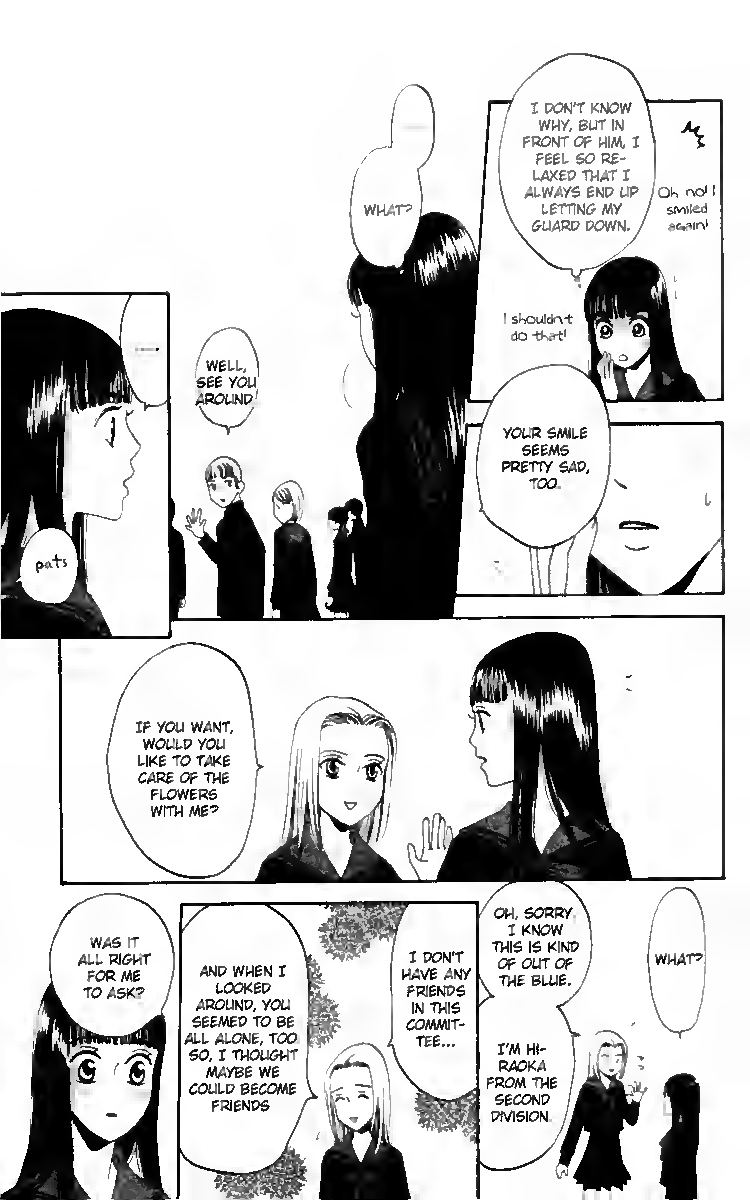
Ishouya Scans
rustle
rustle
It'll only cause him unnecessary stress to tell him now, I think...
But...
When's Lady Luck ever going to be on my side?
And besides, this isn't really the right atmosphere to bring up that kind of thing.
This is the running course for the sports teams.
What's she doing here?
Hey! Isn't that Katsuragawa-senpai?
Let's go! Let's go!
...
sigh...
sigh...
It's been almost a month now since Eiji-kun started avoiding me...

Whether I'm happy or depressed, it doesn't really matter. Time passes at the exact same rate.
OH
The distance between
these two buildings seem so far away.
I know I can't just let things stay the way they are.
THIS WILL BE THE RANGE FOR YOUR UPCOMING MID-TERMS
Make sure to study!
It's already mid-term season.
NOISE
NOISE
No way!
That's way too much!
BUT MY EFFORTS HAVEN'T PAID OFF
I guess I should just go right up to him, and apologize for avoiding and causing him any discomfort in the first place.
This is Kanako's misunderstanding
And plus, if he keeps avoiding me like this
prick

How can I...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT... EVEN IF I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM, I HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ABLE TO RUN INTO HIM...
Since he's been avoiding me...
This is not the time to be thinking about Reiko-san though...
Right now, I should just focus on apologizing to him!
HUH?
YOU WANT TO TALK TO EIJI?
COULD YOU MAYBE PASS THE MESSAGE ONTO EIJI-KUN FOR ME...?
Y-YES...
.....
Since you're such good friends with him.
This is great progress! Yes indeed, Eiji-kun!
UM, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, THAT'S OK.
I'D BE HAPPY TO!
This is the first time
Fuseya's asked to talk to him!

OH, BUT
"IT'S BEST IF I JUST PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US FOR NOW..."
So don't try to set us up or anything like that
?
Hmmmm...
BUT...
TRY TO UNDERSTAND HIS SIDE OF THINGS, OK?
ON SECOND THOUGHT, SORRY, FUSEYA. NO CAN DO
WHAT?
I'm the type of guy who keeps his promises you know?
THAT'S A GREAT REQUEST IT'S A SHAME REALLY.
BLINKS
Does he mean that Eiji-kun hates me and that I shouldn't even try to get close to him..?!
Did he say that to me to serve as a friendly wake-up call?!
AH...
He's a guy but he's also got a sensitive side too know what I mean?
dashes away
"Try to understand"...? What?

N-no way...
shocked
SHE MISUNDERSTOOD AGAIN
THOSE WHOSE JOBS HAVE BEEN DECIDED CAN NOW LEAVE.
THAT'LL BE ALL FOR TODAY
Beautification Committee Meeting
...
...AND NEXT,
AS FOR THE CARING OF THE FLOWERS...
clatter
clatter
clatter
N-NO, I'M FINE.
HEY?
WHAT'S WITH THAT FROWN? YOU SEEM SAD.
noise
noise
noise


I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT IN FRONT OF HIM, I FEEL SO RELAXED THAT I ALWAYS END UP LETTING MY GUARD DOWN.
Oh no! I smiled again!
I shouldn't do that!
WHAT?
WELL, SEE YOU AROUND
pats
YOUR SMILE SEEMS PRETTY SAD, TOO.
IF YOU WANT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE CARE OF THE FLOWERS WITH ME?
WHAT?
OH, SORRY I KNOW THIS IS KIND OF OUT OF THE BLUE.
I'M HIRAOKA FROM THE SECOND DIVISION.
I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN THIS COMMITTEE...
AND WHEN I LOOKED AROUND, YOU SEEMED TO BE ALL ALONE, TOO SO, I THOUGHT MAYBE WE COULD BECOME FRIENDS
WAS IT ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO ASK?

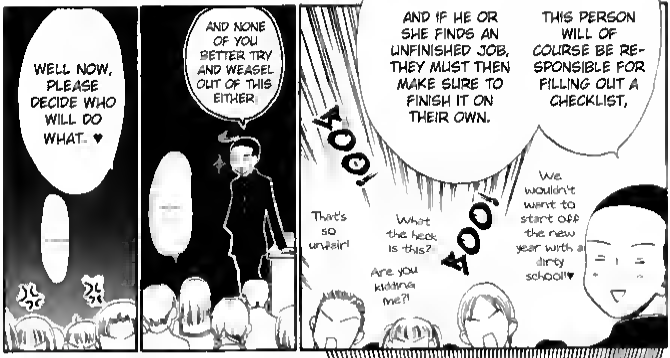
This is so great! I made a new friend!
O-OF COURSE!
WELL THEN, LET'S DO THE JOB TOGETHER FROM NOW ON!
PHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF!
Oh, I didn't know you were good friends with Matsushima-senpai though.
Oh, I don't know him that well
Do you know him?
Yes, since I'm on the tennis team.
I didn't know that.
MATSU-SHIMA...
I-I...
DO YOU HAVE A THING FOR HER OR SOME-THING?
I'VE SEEN YOU TALKING TO AYAKO'S LIL SIS... WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?
HUH?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
Talk about seiya nonoka-lant.
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHY DO I ASK"...?
IS THIS JUST HIS SOCIAL BUTTERFLY-ING IN FULL GEAR?
HEY, KATSURAGA WA...
DON'T TELL ME IT BOTHERS YOU!?
Let me guess?
chuckles
WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT
WELL, SHE IS CUTE AND ALL...
BUT NOT BECAUSE OF ME
More for him
And she seems really honest
BUT I SEE HER MORE AS A LITTLE SISTER TYPE, YOU KNOW?

A "LITTLE SISTER TYPE"?
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW I HAVE A LITTLE SISTER IN SEVENTH GRADE, RIGHT?
SHE PISSES ME OFF ALL THE TIME! SHE'S NOT CUTE AT ALL!
SO I SORT OF WISH I HAD A YOUNGER SISTER LIKE THAT, IS ALL.
THAT'S WHY I CAN'T HELP, BUT TALK TO HER WHEN I SEE HER.
Now that you mentioned it...
I think you said some thing about you not liking your younger brother
She's got this huge attitude problem, and she's just a brat!
And not only that but she's good at everything, right?
Even more so then me. And I hate admitting that!
OH YEAH. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... WAY BACK WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT HOW OUR YOUNGER SIBLINGS PISSED US OFF, REMEMBER?
OH, SO HE SEES HER AS A LITTLE SISTER.
That makes sense...
On the contrary, because she's the sibling of a friend, I kind of feel a sort of closeness to her.
Well, I don't really have any bad impressions from Ayako's younger sister, either.
You shouldn't plant those that deep Matsushi-ma-kun!
Oh, really?
Since I heard about her from Ayako all the time.
BUT I WONDER IF..
TELLING AKIBA THIS WILL MAKE HIM FEEL RELIEVED?
.....

WELL, I'M NOT THAT NICE OF A PERSON
There's no way I'm telling him this...
CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
The First Day of Mid-terms
During the 10 minute break
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HIROO?!
SPEAK-ING OF CHRIST-MAS
chuckles
NOSE NOSE
Which notes are going to be on the exam again?
Show me your notes will you?
THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE TALKING ABOUT THAT!
They're dramatic...
I WAS JUST THINKING HOW FAST TIME FLIES
What are you talking about?
TESTS ARE IMPORTANT AND ALL, BUT THINGS LIKE THIS CAN'T BE TOSSED ASIDE EITHER
So what? You're going to ace the exams?
HUH? WHAT THINGS?

I GUESS THE LAST DAY BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS WOULD BE THE BEST TIME...
DON'T TELL ME...
HEY, HEY,
WOW!
They love parties♥
ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS PARTY?!
Are we?!
BINGO!
Of course we are!
DING
DONG
rattle
LET'S DO IT! YEAH!
Yeah! Yeah! It's going to be a blast!
Well that's because of the exams
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US EARLIER?!
Nice going!
SOUNDS GREAT! I'M IN!
noise
noise

The Beautification Committee today at will hold.
DID YOU FORGET? YOU HAVE AN EXAM TODAY!
noise
noise
Now that we've decided let's set up a plan!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE BELL?
Yay!
HEY EVERY-ONE! TO YOUR SEATS!
noise
noise
whistle
whistle
noise
The Beautification Committee, starting today at four o'clock, will hold a committee meeting. So please gather at the eighth grade first division classroom I repeat
FROM THE TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE IN EACH CLASS, ONE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DISTRIBUTING THE CLEANING GOODS NEEDED FOR THE CLEAN-UP
Like the wax and mop
noise
noise
noise
AND AS FOR THE OTHER PERSON...
noise...?
HE OR SHE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR REMAINING AFTER SCHOOL AND MAKING SURE THAT THE CLEAN-UP IS GOING SMOOTHLY.
BUT I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW BEFOREHAND OF THE BIG CLEAN-UP WE HAVE SCHEDULED FOR THE GRADUATION CEREMONY.
It's still always OFF
WELL,
I KNOW THAT WE'VE ONLY JUST FINISHED EXAMS AND ASKING YOU TO GATHER HERE IS KIND OF TOUGH,
Ishouju Scans


WELL NOW, PLEASE DECIDE WHO WILL DO WHAT. ♥
AND NONE OF YOU BETTER TRY AND WEASEL OUT OF THIS EITHER.
AND IF HE OR SHE FINDS AN UNFINISHED JOB, THEY MUST THEN MAKE SURE TO FINISH IT ON THEIR OWN.
THIS PERSON WILL OF COURSE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR FILLING OUT A CHECKLIST,
LOOK
LOOK
That's so unfair!
What the heck is this?
Are you kidding me?!
We wouldn't want to start off the new year with a dirty school! ♥

I GUESS WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DO OUR BEST. HUH?
I can't believe we have to work until the very end
THIS UGH, IS SO LAME!
Damn it!
THE LOSER IS THE ONE WHO STAYS AFTER SCHOOL!
SCIS-SORS!
Rock
Paper-
TAKE THAT!
rock
rock
rock
ON THE COUNT OF THREE
AT LEAST YOU'RE GOING TO BE HERE WITH ME— I'M GLAD!
YIPEE!
I won!
I lost!
I GUESS AYAKO'S SIS GOT STUCK WITH THE AFTER SCHOOL SHIFT
Sure.
Let's do the check-up together ok?

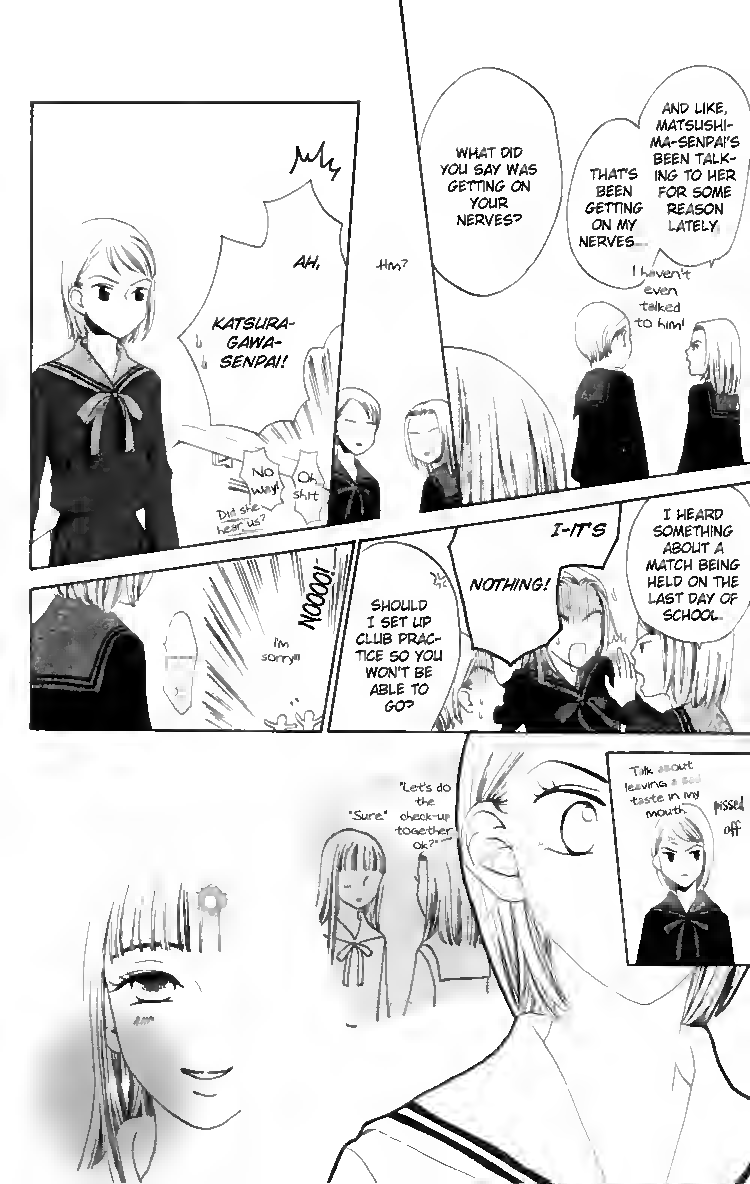
OH, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL IS
I MANAGED TO GET PERMISSION FROM THE TEACHER!
CLATTER
HE SAID IT'S OK TO EXTEND IT UNTIL SEVEN!
And we can even start using the gym at five!
YAHOO!
OH, RIGHT. THE CLASS IS GOING TO HAVE A CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER.
So what do you want to do?
noise
noise
Well first off, once we're finished with homeroom
WELL THE TEACHER'S GOING TO CHECK IT OVER SO IT CAN'T BE ANYTHING TOO OUTRAGEOUS
ARE THERE ANY OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR GAMES WE COULD PLAY?
1.The King Game
2. Karaoke
3. Volleyball
noise
noise
I GUESS I COULD COME AFTER I'VE FINISHED WITH MY COMMITTEE WORK
YAY!
EVERYONE BETTER COME! AND I MEAN EVERYONE!
No, duh!
Since it's Christmas and all
WELL FOR STARTERS, "FEELING COUPLE"* WOULD MAKE SENSE
That should be ok right?
What did you just say?! I just said it's Christmas didn't I?! What would we do without something for couples?!
What?! That's so lame! Why do you girls always have to screw up stuff like that anyway?!
Don't flatter yourself.

*T/L Note: Feeling Couple = A game where you try to guess who likes who.

YEAH, THERE'S THAT.
YEAH, BUT EVEN IF WE WERE TO DO THAT, WOULDN'T IT BE KIND OF BORING IF IT'S JUST OUR CLASS?
You brat! Brat!
What d you just call me?!
I said stop!
fight
fight
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
WELL, FOR THAT GAME, WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT INVITING PEOPLE FROM OTHER CLASSES?
AND THEY WERE JUST FIGHTING, TOO
Awesome!
Yay!
They're too easily caught up in the excitement
HIRAOKA-SAN
WHAT'S WRONG?
You're out of breath!
wheeze wheeze
FUSEYA -SAN!
Yeah, and we should check how many people-
Let's make invitation cards!
SMILES
IT'S ABOUT THE JOB WE HAVE TO DO FOR THE COMMITTEE ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
UM-

I JUST JOINED A CLUB RECENTLY,
AND BECAUSE MY MATCH IS COMING UP SOON, I CAN'T AFFORD TO SKIP PRACTICE.
"Let's do the check-up together, ok?"
I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT
I DON'T MIND DOING BOTH OUR JOBS AS WELL
WHAT?!
REALLY?! YOU DON'T MIND?!
"At least you're going to be here with me. I'm glad!"
FUSEYA-SAN, YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
I don't know what I would've done with-out you!
pitter patter
...?
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR MATCH.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GREAT IF WE COULD'VE DONE IT TO-GETHER, THOUGH.
YEAH, THANKS!
OH, WELL
Well see you!

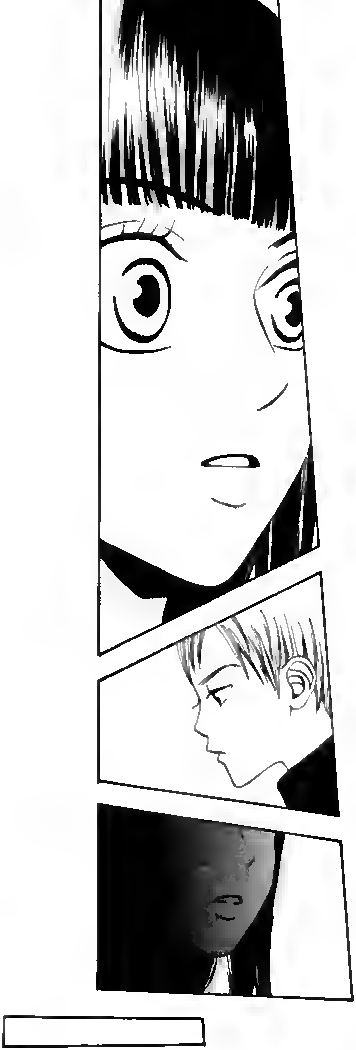
YEAH, BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D JUST LIKE GET SOMEONE ELSE TO DO YOUR JOB FOR YOU!
Ahaha
HEY,
WELL YOU MIGHT AS WELL USE 'EM IF YOU HAVE 'EM, RIGHT?
I joined because I thought it'd be easy. I was so wrong!
SO, HOW'D IT GO?
EASY AS PIE!
SERIOUSLY? WAY TO GO!
IT'S LIKE, WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MINDS WOULD STAY AFTER SCHOOL ON THE VERY LAST DAY TO DO CLEAN-UP?
BUT YOU KNOW, THE COMMITTEE IS SO LAME!
Then we can go to the concert then, right?
Yeah
BUT THERE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ANY MATCHES AROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR
And if memory serves me right she's in the tennis club.
She heard what she said
TALK ABOUT HARSH!
I STARTED TALKING TO HER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WHY DO YOU THINK
WHO CARES.
SHE SAID SHE'D DO IT, SO WHY SHOULD I CARE?
And besides she seems to like cleaning up.
I HEARD HER CLASS IS HAVING SOME KIND OF CHRISTMAS PARTY. IS SHE REALLY OK WITH DOING YOUR JOB, TOO?
YEAH, BUT THAT GIRL'S IN THE FOURTH DIVISION, ISN'T SHE?


AH,
Hm?
KATSURA-GAWA-SENPAI!
No way!
Ok, shit
Did she hear us?
WHAT DID YOU SAY WAS GETTING ON YOUR NERVES?
THAT'S BEEN GETTING ON MY NERVES...
AND LIKE, MATSUSHI-MA-SENPAI'S BEEN TALK-ING TO HER FOR SOME REASON LATELY
I haven't even talked to him!
I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT A MATCH BEING HELD ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.
I-IT'S
NOTHING!
SHOULD I SET UP CLUB PRAC-TICE SO YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO?
NOOOO!
I'm sorry!!
"Let's do the check-up together ok?"
"Sure."
Talk about leaving a bad taste in my mouth.
pissed off

OH RIGHT
I THINK KEIICHI MENTIONED SOMETHING ABOUT AKIBA COMING OVER TO OUR HOUSE ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL.
UGH, THINK ABOUT SOMETHING FUN!
YEAH, THAT'S PRETTY AWESOME IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
pissed off
WHY AM I FEELING SO PISSED OFF .?
pissed off
pissed off
Is it because she's Ayako's sis?
I'M GUESSING IT'S THAT "FEELING COUPLE" GAME YOU'RE GOING DO IN YOUR CLASS?
COME TO THINK IF IT I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO STICK YOUR NOSE INTO STUFF LIKE THIS
Oh, so you know?
YEAH, BUT THIS IS DIFFERENT
Christmas!
WHAT? IS THERE SOMETHING HAPPENING THAT DAY?
THE TWENTY-SECOND?
ARE YOU FREE?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
I HAVE A SPECIAL PRESENT FOR YOU
You know, Christmas one.
OK

...
WHEN I WANT TO DO SOMETHING, I'LL DO IT ON MY OWN TIME, SO...
JUST LET IT REST FOR NOW, OK?
WHEN YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, WHEN'S THAT GOING TO BE EXACTLY?
WHAT'S UP, YOU TWO?
Yo!
You slow poke
You're starting to piss me off!
NOW'S JUST NOT THE RIGHT TIME!
IT'S ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY HIROO'S CLASS IS HAVING
WHAT WERE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
You were right there
Oh, Keiichi-kun's sis!
OHH~
Walk with bare feet
Beautification committee
OH, NO FAIR!
SO WHAT. YOU TWO ARE PLANNING ON HANGING OUT WITHOUT ME?!
(How) old are you anyway?
JUST THE TWO OF THEM...?
Just the two of them...
+
Warning. She's misunderstood the situation.
Oh ?
"COMING TO MY HOUSE"?
Without meaning to
swish
EIJI-KUN...!
SO WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO JOIN IN, TOO?
THAT'S THE DAY YOU'RE COMING TO MY HOUSE!
OH. THE TWENTY-SECOND!
I HAVE OTHER PLANS THAT DAY.
NO,
YEAH, THAT

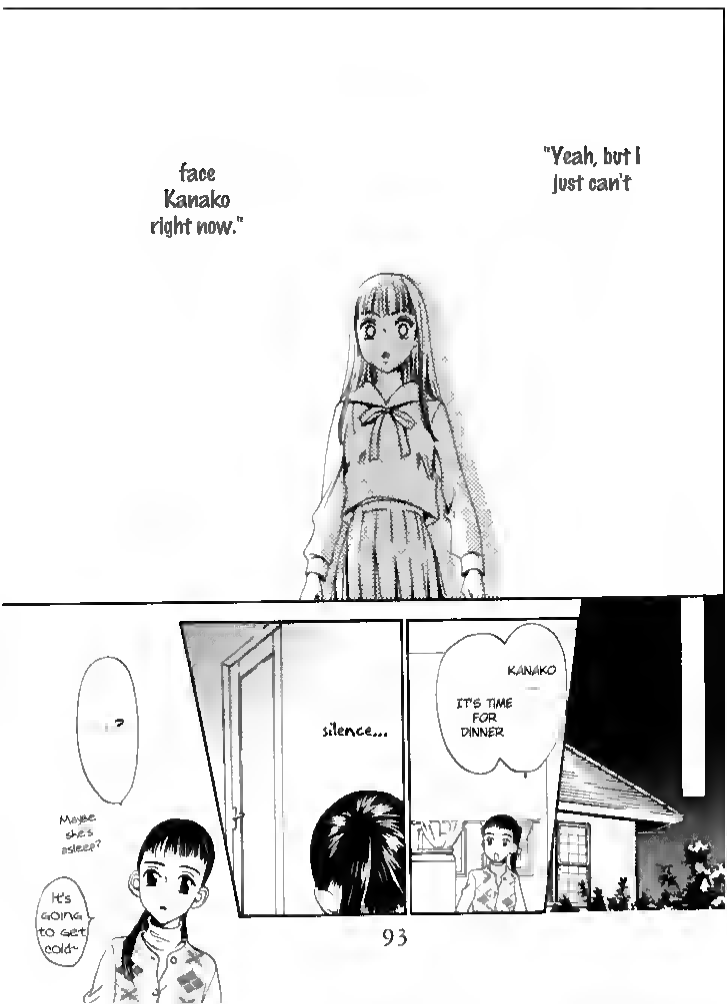
OH, RIGHT!
LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER ON THAT DAY THEN.
What?! They're going to go home together?
IF YOU JUST WENT STRAIGHT HOME WITH ME, RIGHT?
IT'D BE EASIER
Yippee!
YEAH, SURE
Well... even serve you lunch.
shocked
OH, SO YOU REALLY WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT?
To the "Feeling"
YEAH.
Sorry.
YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T GET CAUGHT UP IN THE IDEA OF A "RIGHT TIME" AND ALL...
Hmmm
I THINK YOU SHOULD JUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY CHANCE THAT COMES YOUR WAY
YEAH, BUT I JUST CAN'T FACE KANAKO RIGHT NOW.


IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR ME OR NOT...
IF SHE'S THERE, THEN I'M NOT GOING

pitter patter pitter
HEY, FUSEYA-SAN?
FLINCH
WHY ARE YOU IN SUCH A RUSH?
WHAT'S UP?
OH.
wheeze
wheeze
IT'S NOTHING.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE NOTHING TO ME.
I have to smile.
I can't be a bother to him.
NO.
EH—
wheeze
wheeze
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
I have to smile and cover it up.

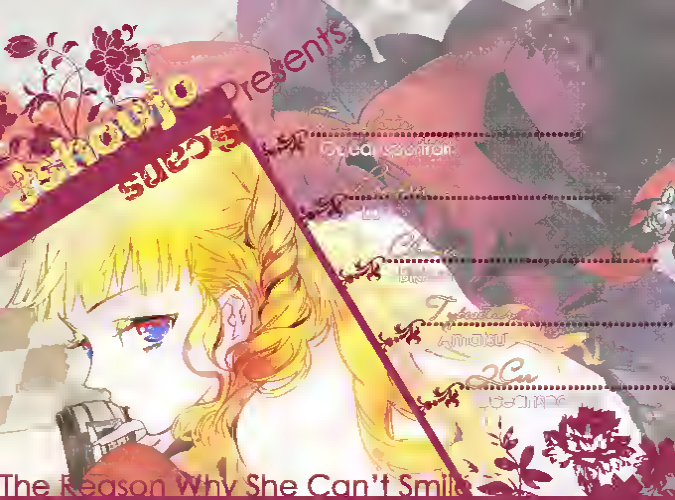
"It doesn't matter if it's a good opportunity for me or not.
If she's there, then I'm not going."
I'M NOT GOING.
Huh?
BA-DUMP
"I'm not going."

BA-DUMP


"Yeah, but I just can't face Kanako right now."
KANAKO
IT'S TIME FOR DINNER
silence...
?
Maybe she's asleep?
It's going to get cold~

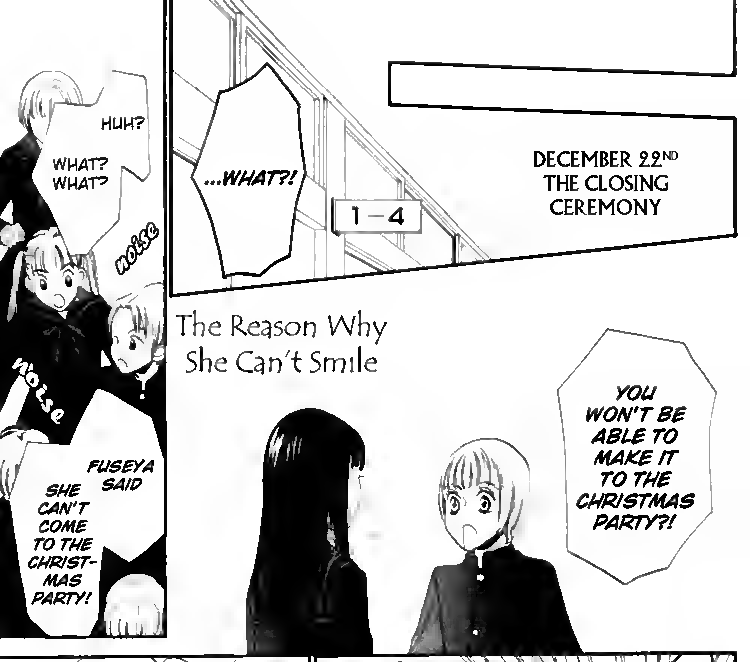
Why?
Why can't I...
Why?
once a Day
Practice
Smiling
Why wasn't I able to smile?

smile...?



The Reason Why She Can't Smile

Volume 2 Chapter 8

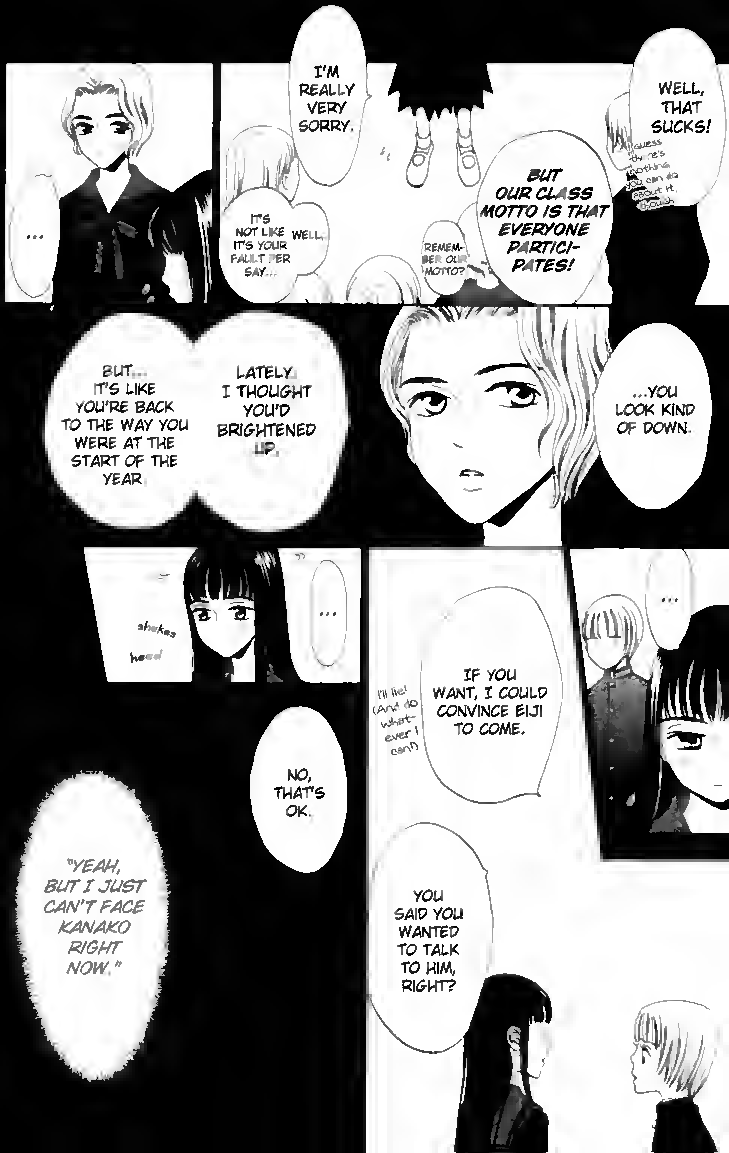


The Reason Why She Can't Smile

IT'S A LOT OF WORK, SO I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN FINISH IT IN TIME.
OH...
CAN'T YOU COME AFTER YOU FINISH IT, THOUGH?
SINCE I'M TAKING ON HIRAOKA-SAN'S PART TOO
THERE'S SOME WORK I HAVE TO DO FOR THE BEAUTIFICATION CLUB COMMITTEE...
I'm really sorry
BUT WHY?!
FOR REAL?!
WHAT?!

A little info about a character
Matsushima

He's Reiko's friend
He's someone I just made up on the spur of the moment,
so even I don't really know that much about him
Oh well, whatever


...
I'M REALLY VERY SORRY.
IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S YOUR FAULT, SAY...
WELL,
REMEMBER OUR MOTTO?
BUT OUR CLASS MOTTO IS THAT EVERYONE PARTICIPATES!
I guess they're nothing I can do about it then.
WELL, THAT SUCKS!
...YOU LOOK KIND OF DOWN.
LATELY I THOUGHT YOU'D BRIGHTENED UP.
BUT... IT'S LIKE YOU'RE BACK TO THE WAY YOU WERE AT THE START OF THE YEAR.
...
shakes head
NO, THAT'S OK.
"YEAH, BUT I JUST CAN'T FACE KANAKO RIGHT NOW."
I'll like, (and do whatever I can!)
IF YOU WANT, I COULD CONVINCE EIJI TO COME.
...
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO TALK TO HIM, RIGHT?

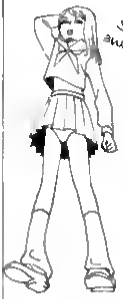
The Reason Why She Can't Smile

It'll take at least half a day to get it all done.
IT MUST BE REALLY TOUGH FOR ONE PERSON TO DO TWO CLASSES WORTH OF CLEAN UP
DO YOUR BEST!
SO YOU GOT YOUR WORK ALL DIVIDED UP?
HUH?
I'M GOING TO TRY AND GET IT DONE AS FAST AS I CAN
YEAH
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, WILL YOU?
I ENVY YOU!
YEP
THIS IS ALL THE STUFF I HAVE TO DO FOR THE COMMITTEE!
...That girl...
HUH?
OH, YOU MEAN HIRAOKA-SAN?
WHO'S THE GIRL THAT'S IN THE BEAUTIFICATION CLUB COMMITTEE HERE?
Is she here?
SHE REALLY DID END UP SKIPPING IT!
WHOA! TALK ABOUT HARSH!
She showed all that work onto Ayako's sis...
...IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALREADY LEFT.
1 – 2
She better do her fair share...
HEY!
noise
noise
WHAT A LOSER!
THAT REALLY SUCKS FOR AYAKO'S SIS...

Jshoujo Scans

Introducing... our online reader!.

http://jshoujoscan.com/reader



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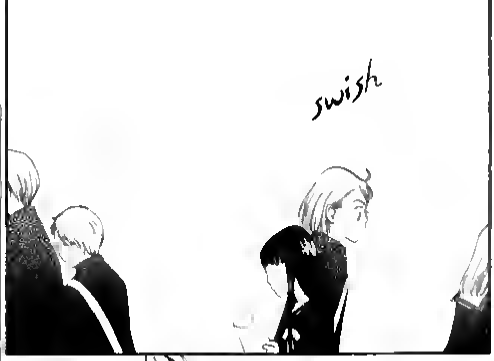
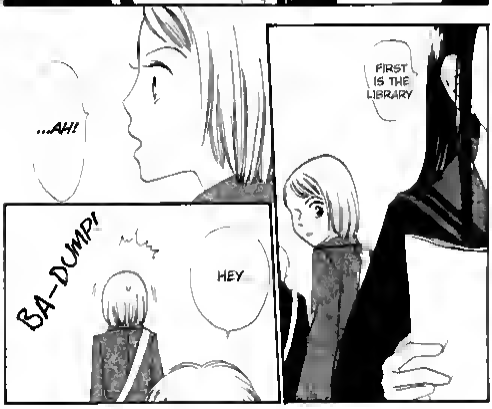
-Jshoujo





What Ayako's sis has to go through has nothing to do with me...
IT'S NOTHING!
You look down?
SOME-THING WRONG?
rattle
I'D BETTER CLEAN THEM
It's so cold!
The windows are dirty.
That's her problem.
LET'S GO HOME!
So what's wrong with me going home with Akiba?
What's your problem?
Oh, wait I'm not!
You really do seem down though

I'D BETTER GET TO WORK
...
Ok Ok!
Ow Ow!
See? I'm feeling great!
...
NEXT IS THE STAIRS IN THE NORTH WING
noise
noise
Aha ha ha
OH!
Yeah go for it!
SEVENTH GRADE FOURTH DIVISION

IT'S YOUR TURN, SIS
...
IT MUST BE REALLY COLD AT THE SCHOOL
YEAH
NO WONDER IT WAS SO COLD TODAY
LOOK! LOOK!
IT'S SNOWING!
I have to make the best of it...
NNN...
Coming!
HEY, THAT'S THE PHONE
You can't let Ayako's sis get to you!
Hurry up and roll the die already
Akiba's at our house after all.
EARTH TO SIS? IT'S YOUR TURN
...
WHAT WAS THAT CREEPY IMAGE JUST NOW?
OH, RIGHT, RIGHT.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
She normally make them let her join in
YEAH, IS EVERYTHING OK? YOU SEEM TO HAVE YOUR HEAD IN THE CLOUDS
She's winning
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU WANTED TO PLAY THIS GAME
IT'S HIROO.
FOR ME?
YEAH
Want me to put the speaker on?
HUH?
Just a sec
OK, OK
HELLO?
Oh

WHAT'S GOING ON?
HEY, ARE YOU GUYS HAVING A CHRISTMAS PARTY?
OH, SENPAI!
I JUST WANTED YOU TO GET A SENSE OF WHAT A BLAST WE'RE HAVING HERE!
HUH? OH, NO REASON
Mmm~
Mmm~ Mmm~
Mmm~ best of~
You're humming it on?
...
turtle
noise
noise
noise
HEY,
Kya!
Whoa!
Yay!
IS THAT YOU, EIJI?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
LONG TIME NO TALK
Why'd you call?
LONG TIME NO TALK! IT'S HIROO!
IS noise KEIICHI-KUN THERE, TOO?
noise
noise
OH, I HAD SOME COMMITTEE STUFF TO DO...
There's no way I can check the room like this though
Kya
Kya
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
MATSUSHIMA?
ADDING ONE MORE TO THE MEMBER LIST?
So what? He can join in too?
LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE ONE MORE ADDITION TO OUR PARTY
OH,
SURE
Yay!
Do you really mean it?!
Kya
Kya
WE'RE STARTING THE "FEELING COUPLE" GAME IN ABOUT AN HOUR
AH, SENPAI!
Kya
IF YOU HAVE TIME, YOU SHOULD COME BACK THEN!
click
IT'S GETTING PRETTY BUSY HERE SO I BETTER GET GOING. SEE YA!
FUSEYA-SAN'S IN THIS CLASS TOO, RIGHT? IS SHE COMING HERE AFTER-
OH, HEY
THERE HE GOES AGAIN...
IS IT OK IF I COME A LITTLE LATE?
YOU GUYS ARE ALL SO CUTE, SO IT'S GONNA BE A TOUGHIE
Kya!
No problem-o!
Ishuya Scans

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HER JOINING THE GAME?
!
silence
WHAT HE SAID LAST
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I COULDN'T CARE LESS
Why would you ask?
RIGHT, RIGHT...
WELL EITHER WAY SHE'S NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THE PARTY ANYWAY...
I guess there's no reason to be worried
BUT SHE COULD JUST GO THERE AFTER SHE'S FINISHED, COULDN'T SHE?
Whoops!
HUH?
blinks
OH...
IT'S JUST... SHE HAS COMMITTEE CLUB DUTIES, YOU KNOW?
Ah!

YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO CREATE SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN YOU TWO, RIGHT?
...
DANG IT, WHY DOES HAVU BE SO SHARP...?
So much for keeping quiet about it!
WHY WOULDN'T SHE BE ABLE TO JOIN A PARTY THAT HER OWN CLASS IS HAVING?
...BUT STILL!
THEN THIS SHOULDN'T BE ANY OF YOUR CONCERN
WELL, YOU'RE RIGHT...
...
He's here now,
...but he's going to go to her if I tell him!
I can't allow that to happen! I have to make something up!
If I tell him the truth, then there's no way he's going to stay...
...

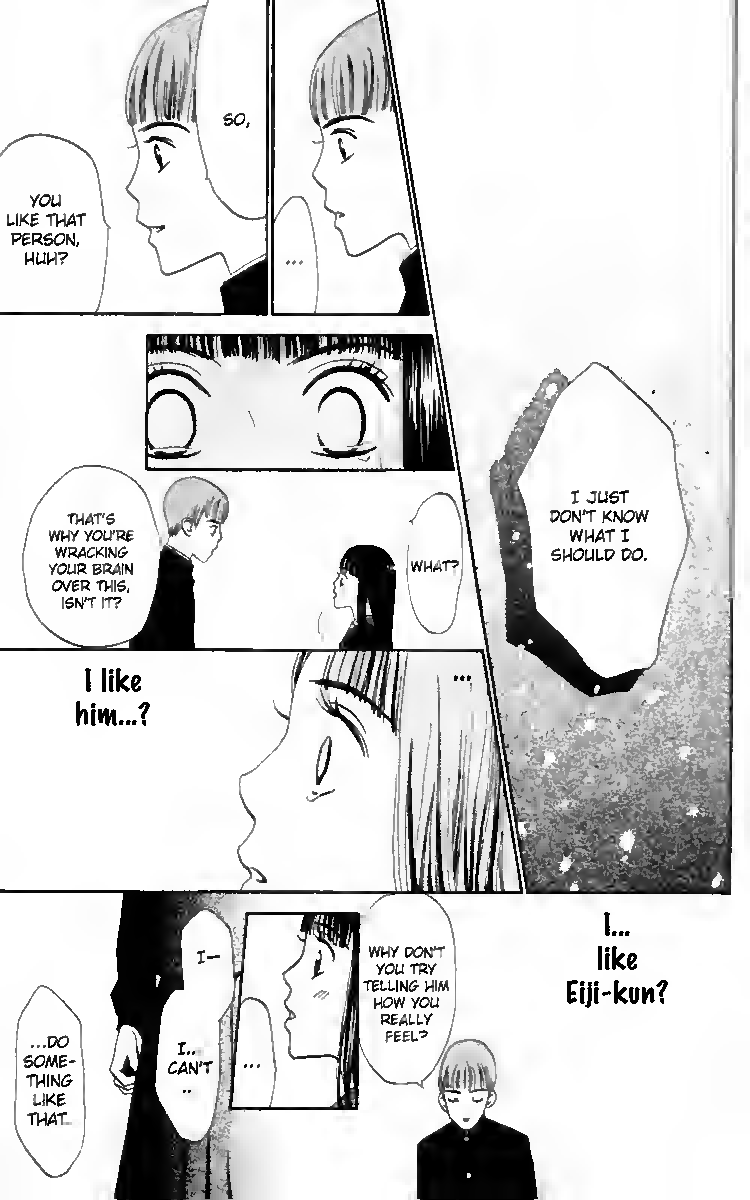
I just have to make something up!
...
WELL, ACTUALLY...
whistle
puff
IT'S SO COLD...
...
KNOCK KNOCK
OH...
Seventh Grade, Fourth Division

AH, SENPAI!
THAT'S OK. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HELP ME!
IT'D BE FASTER WITH TWO PEOPLE RATHER THAN JUST ONE
HUH? BUT WHY?
Besides I'm free since I'm already finished with mine
...
YOU'RE STILL DOING THIS?
WHOA, TALK ABOUT FREEZING!
little
SENPAI
...
I popped by earlier and they looked like they were having a blast
YOU SHOULD JUST CLEAN A LITTLE BIT HERE AND THERE WRAP IT UP AND HEAD ON OVER TO THE PARTY
WHAT?!
OH, NO! NOT AT ALL!
OH, OR WOULD I JUST BE IN THE WAY?
...
♪ fa la la
la la
LET'S JUST DO IT TOGETHER SO WE CAN GET IT DONE AS FAST AS WE CAN!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO CAN NEVER LEAVE THINGS HALFWAY DONE
I'M SORRY, THAT PROBABLY SOUNDS REALLY STRANGE!
AH!
A FA-
I'm sorry I said that!
YOU MEAN, LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER?
NO, MORE LIKE A FATHER.
OH, REALLY?
I was really nervous in the beginning though
WHEN I'M WITH YOU, I FEEL REALLY COMFORTABLE...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT... I THINK I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT HER NOT HAVING A FATHER IN HER HOUSEHOLD...
I think her sis told me...
OH...
...
PLEASE JUST FORGET I SAID ANYTHING
I'm sorry
I KNEW IT
...
MY SISTER'S TOLD ME THAT BEFORE.
AH,
HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE QUICK TO PLACE OLDER GUYS ON A PEDESTAL?
...I FEEL REALLY AT EASE WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE KIND...
BUT...
At first glance his manner is really brusque...
Eiji-kun...
...
...BUT HE'S ACTUALLY A VERY KIND PERSON...

I'VE BEEN WONDERING THIS FOR A WHILE NOW...
...BUT IS THERE ANYTHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING YOU?
WHAT?
YOU'VE JUST BEEN LOOKING REALLY DOWN LATELY.
AND YOU DON'T SMILE, SO...
IT'S NOTHING
ba-dump
AND THAT'S PART OF THE REASON WHY I FELT THE NEED TO TALK TO YOU, YOU KNOW?
...
IF IT'S OK WITH YOU, WHY DON'T YOU TRY TALKING TO ME ABOUT IT?
IF YOU DO, YOU MIGHT FEEL BETTER.
I DON'T MIND BEING A FATHERLY FIGURE IF NEED BE SO

ME...
...
HUH?
...DOESN'T LIKE ME ANYMORE
HE SAID..
THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO FACE ME ANYMORE
...
THE PERSON WHO ALWAYS HELPED ME...
...AND WHO WAS ALWAYS KIND TO ME...
SO EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO APOLOGIZE TO HIM...
...I CAN'T TAKE THE NEXT STEP BECAUSE I'M AFRAID THAT HE'D HATE ME EVEN MORE...


SO,
YOU LIKE THAT PERSON, HUH?
...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I SHOULD DO.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE WRACKING YOUR BRAIN OVER THIS, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?
I like him...?
...
I... like Eiji-kun?
I—
I... CAN'T ..
...
WHY DON'T YOU TRY TELLING HIM HOW YOU REALLY FEEL?
...DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

I'D ONLY CAUSE HIM TROUBLE...
AND HE DOESN'T LIKE ME
AND...
...
ding dong
3-2 MATSUSHIMA, 3-2 MATSUSHIMA
OH...
PLEASE COME TO THE COUNSELLING ROOM
...
GEEZ, WHAT NOW?
Talk about bad timing
...
OK.
SORRY, BUT I BETTER GET GOING
That was the teacher
...
PUTTING ASIDE THE STUFF ABOUT CAUSING HIM TROUBLE AND ALL...
HAVE...
. YOU EVER TOLD SOMEONE HOW YOU FELT REGARDLESS OF THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES?

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO DO?
noise
noise
"KANAKO!"
"WAIT! DON'T RUN AWAY!"
"I DIDN'T MEAN IT!"
"YOU SHOULD TAKE YOUR GLASSES OFF."

"WHAT IS IT --- THAT YOU WANT TO DO?"
"YOU FINALLY SMILED."
WHAT ARE --- YOU CRYING FOR.. ?
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
wheeze
Wheeze
pitter
patter
pitter
patter

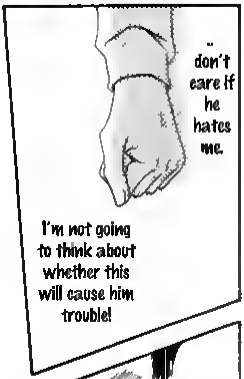
YOUR CLASS IS BUSY HAVING A PARTY!
THEY'RE RIGHT THERE HAVING THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE CLEANING AND CRYING BY YOURSELF,
YOU SHOULD JUST SAY "SCREW THIS" AND GO JOIN THE PARTY!
SINCE HE'S COMING, TOO!
YOU SHOULD HAVE FUN!
...
YOU WANT TO JOIN IN, DON'T YOU?!
...
GO SMILE AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!
whoooo

I...
pitter
patter
PULLS
HER HANDS ARE REALLY COLD
1-4
rattle
noise
noise
kya
kya
aha ha
What's that all about?
Whoa!
NO way!
aha ha ha
Pass me the coke will ya?
ahahah
kya
aha ha ha
TALK ABOUT CHILLY!
Number fifteen you're up!
Yay!

WHO'S THE ONE THAT LEFT THE DOOR OPEN?
noise
kya
noise
kya
...
click
click
click
click
...
I WONDER HOW THINGS ARE GOING WITH THEM...
THAT WAS REALLY NICE OF YOU, SIS
TELLING EIJI ABOUT FUSEYA WHEN YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO. .
That was really kind!
SIGH
...
If I really wanted to put myself first, I should've never told him...
What?!
clucks tongue

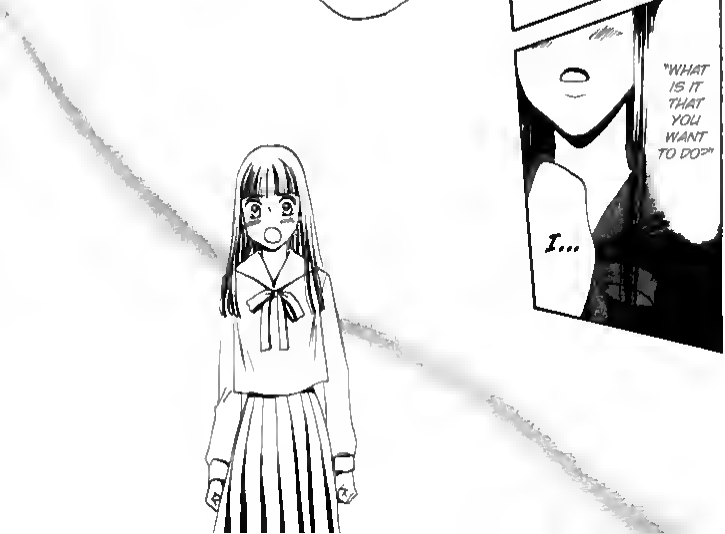
But what do I do? I take pity on others and think about them too much...
If I hadn't, he would have stayed here..
But if I could be more selfish and tell him how I felt...
then...
I WISH I COULD BE MORE SELFISH!
UGH!
YO, KEIICHI!
Screw being little-miss-nice-girl!
GET ME SOME TEA, WILL YOU?
EIJI-KUN!
WAIT!
I'm not sure...
Did I worry too much?
...Did I take a step back because I'm older?
YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME...
...
YOU SHOULD BE IN THE CLASS ROOM.
...
WHY DID YOU FOLLOW ME?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?

I...
"WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO DO?"
So why are you here?
HUH?

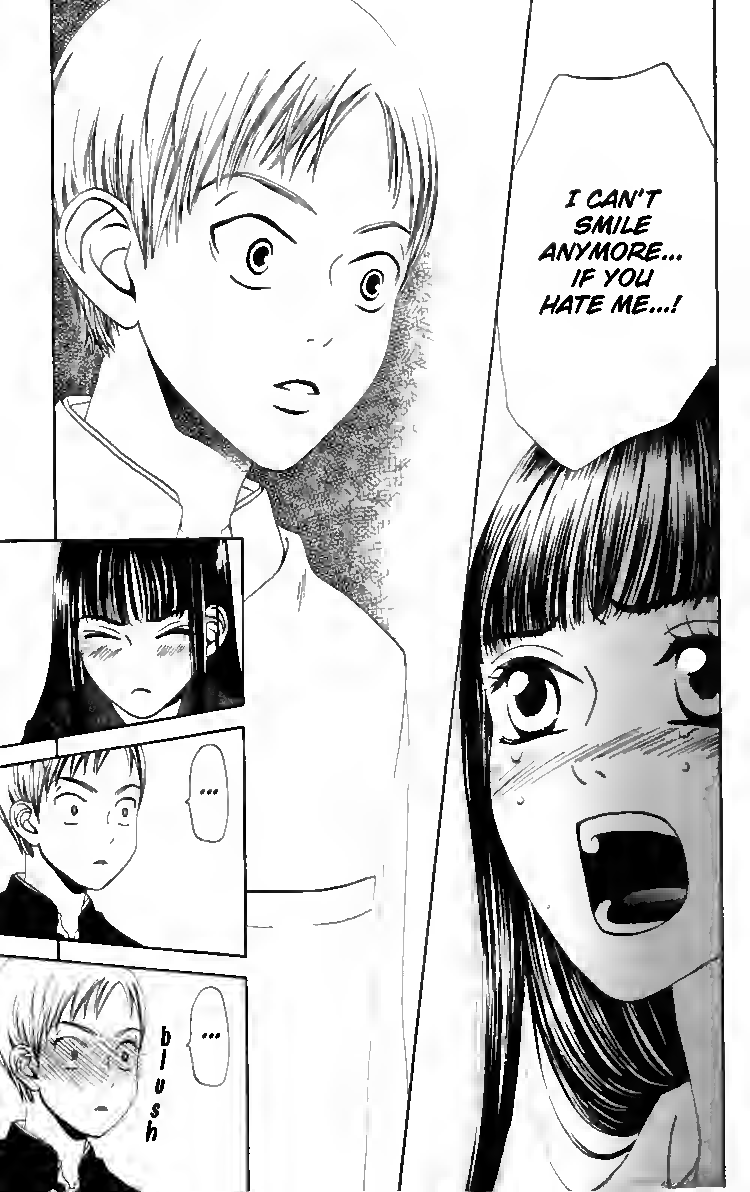

..don't care if he hates me.
I'm not going to think about whether this will cause him trouble!

...WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE!

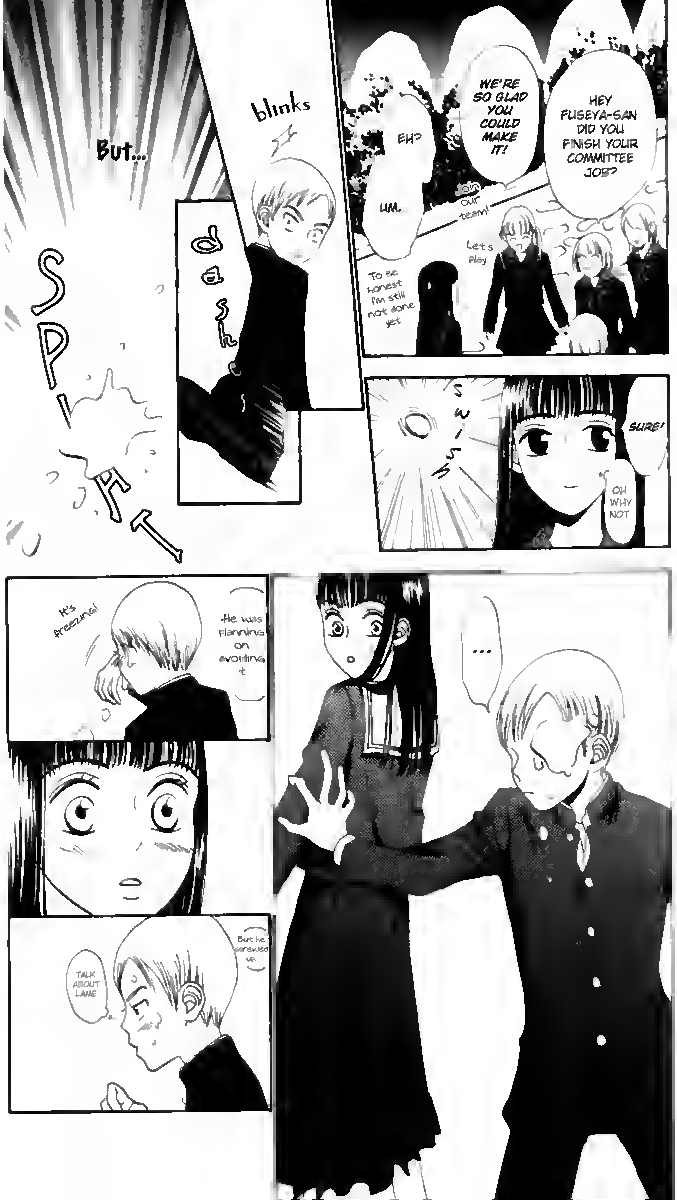
"WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO DO?"
I...



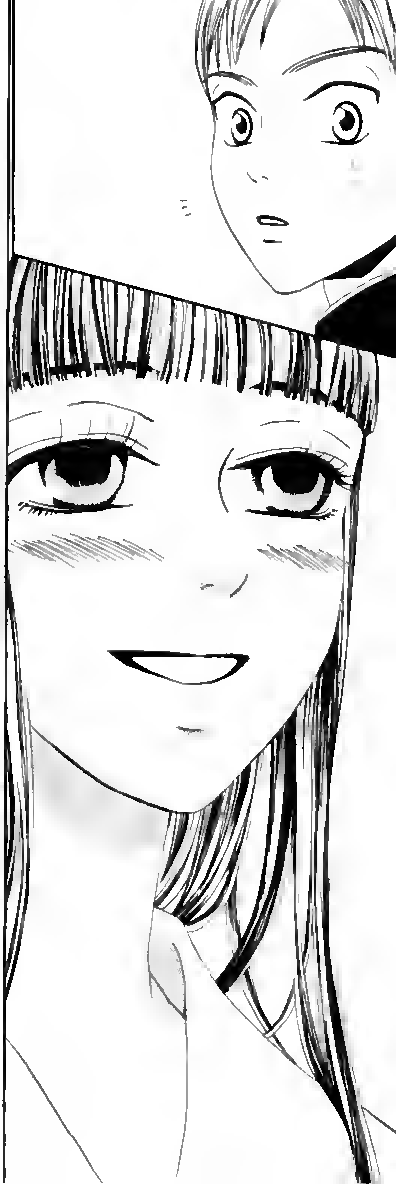
PLEASE DON'T AVOID ME EVEN IF YOU DON'T LIKE ME!
WHEN I'M NEAR YOU, I FEEL REALLY NERVOUS..
HUH ?
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO RUN AWAY ANYMORE
SO...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ?
?
YOU TOLD ME BACK THERE
.. TO GO HAVE FUN AND SMILE..
...BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH FUN IT MIGHT BE, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SMILE IF YOU'RE NOT THERE!

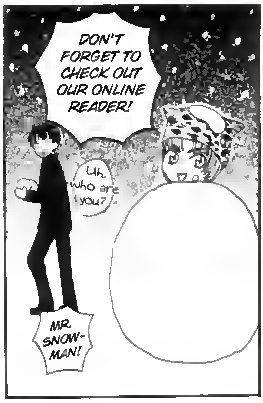

I CAN'T SMILE ANYMORE... IF YOU HATE ME...!
...
...
blush

HEY!!!!
Flinch
I- HOLD UP
KANAKO
Are you serious?
...
Let's get a move on Fourth Division!
SNOW BALL FIGHT!
Let's continue our Christmas Party outside!
The snow's piling up!
YAY!
YAY!!!
WHOA!
...
What's gonna on?
Because we ended up getting engulfed in the Christmas festivities going on around us, I didn't get a chance to hear what he'd started to tell me.
...
...
You moron! Don't interrupt us!
NOO!
I'm gonna go kill you!
I'M FREEZING TO DEATH!
WOW!
Kya!
WOW! WOW!
Kya!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
I thought you were at Keiichi kun
HUH?! EIJI?!
WHAT, SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT? Yeah?
HEY
IS THIS ALL YOUR DOING?
Talk about bad timing.
...
swish


HEY FUSEYA-SAN DID YOU FINISH YOUR COMMITTEE JOB?
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!
EH?
UM.
Join our team!
Let's Play
To be honest I'm still not done yet
SURE!
OH WHY NOT
blinks
But...
dash
SA-AT
...
It's freezing!
He was planning on anything it
But he persuaded us.
TALK ABOUT LAME

But that day was the first day since I stopped smiling... that I realized just how good it feels to smile.





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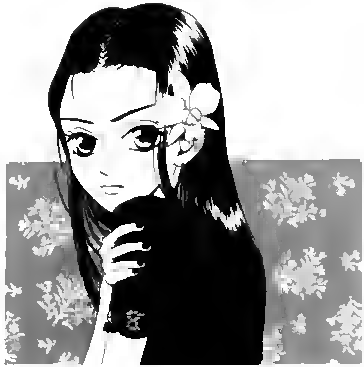
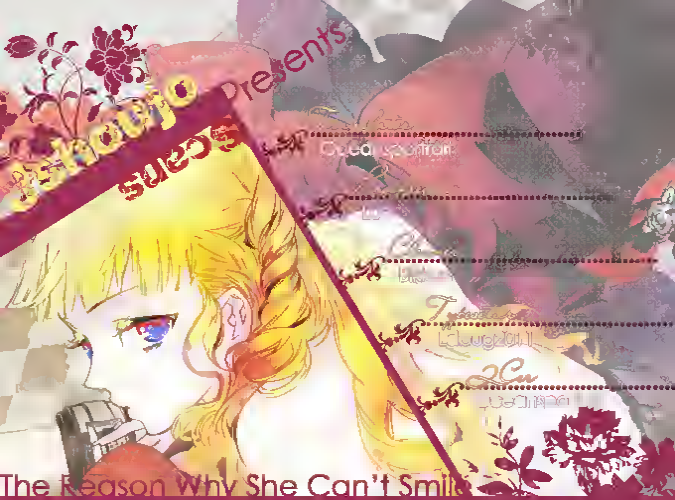


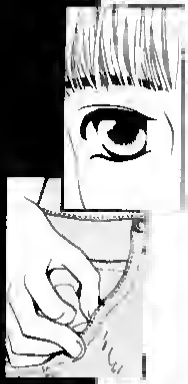


The Reason Why She Can't Smile

Volume 2 Chapter 9

Junk
Mochizuki Karin
WHARR
the sky looked so blue that it came off as unnatural
and it almost seemed like a step back from reality.
WHARR
TAMAKI-CHAN...?
WHARR
....
WHARR
SHE'S NOT MOVING
HER BODY'S BENT AT A REALLY UNNATURAL ANGLE...
WHARR
WHARR
KKRR
TWICKLE
WHARR
Splash
WHARR

WHRRR
WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW?!
...JUNK!
NAO-HIKO-KUN...
WHERE'S TAMAKI
WHRRR
WHRRR
WHRRR
TAMAKI ?!
YO! TAMAKI!
WHRRR
Weee wooo...
The machines of the factory stopped operating.
...IS SHE DEAD...?
The sound of a siren rang in the
air...
and it became eerily quiet.



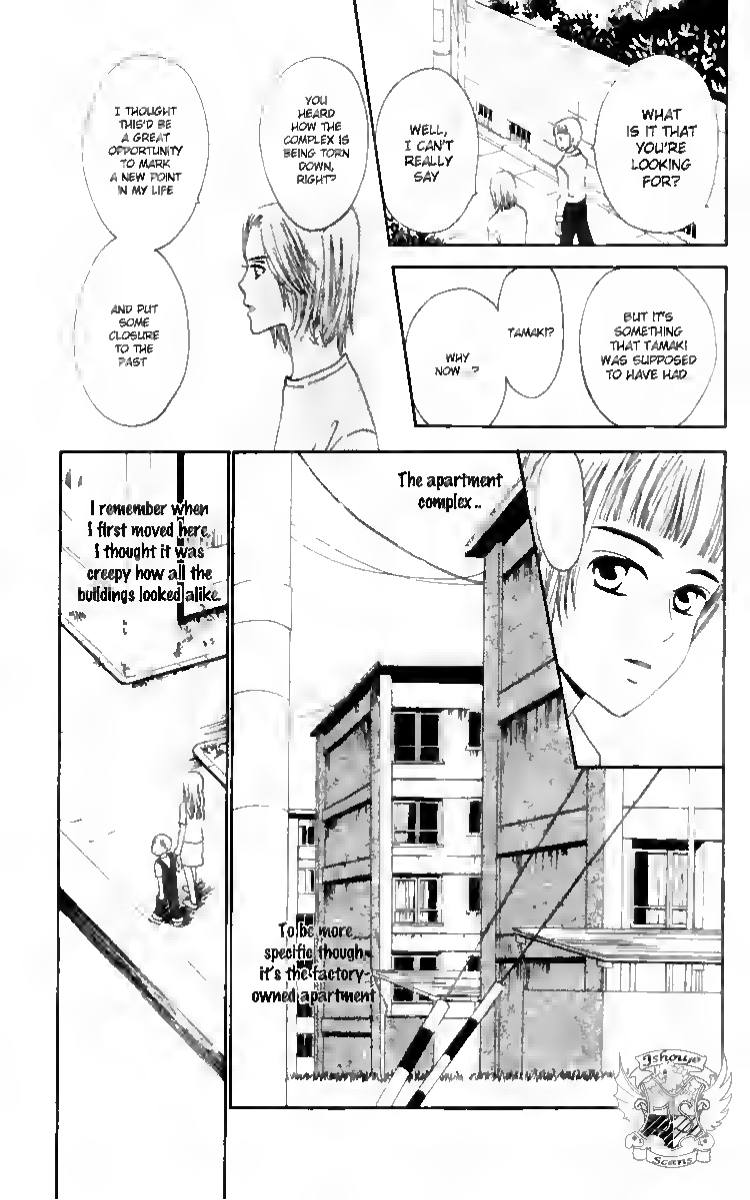
This was the moment

that I gained a secret that
I couldn't tell anyone.

Junk

Nine Years Later

I returned to my hometown for the first time in two years.
The apartment complex I lived in as a child got scheduled for demolition.
It's because I received a call from Naohiko-kun last night
I TOLD YOU THIS OVER THE PHONE ALREADY,
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO LOOK FOR.
If I could've helped it though, I wish I would have never had to return to this town...


WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
WELL, I CAN'T REALLY SAY
YOU HEARD HOW THE COMPLEX IS BEING TORN DOWN, RIGHT?
I THOUGHT THIS'D BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MARK A NEW POINT IN MY LIFE
AND PUT SOME CLOSURE TO THE PAST
BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT TAMAKI WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE HAD
TAMAKI?
WHY NOW...?
The apartment complex..
I remember when I first moved here. I thought it was creepy how all the buildings looked alike.
To be more specific though, it's the factory-owned apartment

This was the place that the three of us often played together as children.
WOAH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S STILL HERE
Baby tooth
The river of stagnant water that was almost dried up.
The rotting corpse of a cat in the garden of an abandoned house.
and me.
Naohiko-kun,
Tanaki,
Looking back on it now, it was a closed and narrow world we lived in..
JUNK
WHY'D YOU LEAVE THIS TOWN?

JSHOUJO SCANS

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http://jshoujoscan.com/reader

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Hope to see you there!
~Jshoujo

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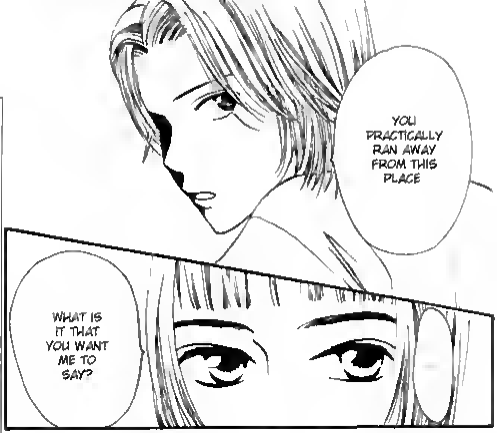
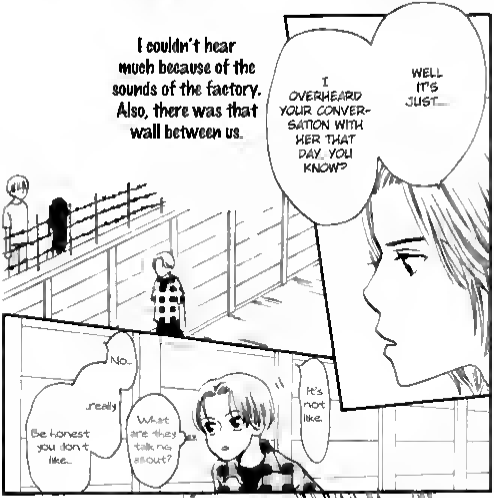
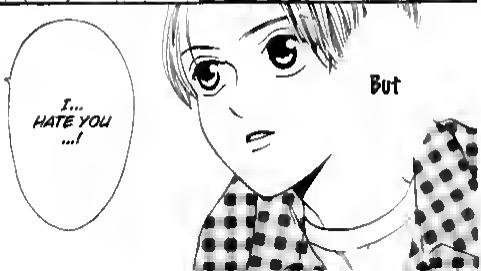
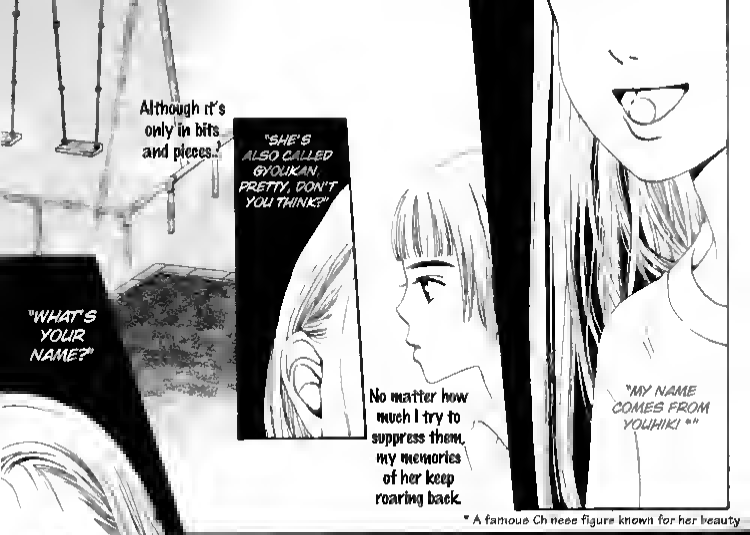
If interested, please email Anya at. *anyagjusay @gmail.com*




I couldn't hear much because of the sounds of the factory. Also, there was that wall between us.
WELL IT'S JUST...
I OVERHEARD YOUR CONVERSATION WITH HER THAT DAY, YOU KNOW?
It's not like.
What are they talking about?
Be honest you don't like...
really
No...



BUT SINCE YOU NEVER TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND
SHE USED TO PICK ON YOU A LOT SO...
IT WAS RIGHT AFTER THAT, THAT TAMAKI FELL INTO THE DRAIN DITCH AND DIED.
WELL NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO DRAG UP THE PAST NOW OR ANYTHING.
DAMNIT, IT'S NOT HERE EITHER
"PUT SOME CLOSURE TO THE PAST..."
He...
can think
what he wants... that's fine with me.
Let's try another spot next
rustle
We're retracing our steps back to the places Tamaki used to frequent
This way?
No, that way


Although it's only in bits and pieces..
"SHE'S ALSO CALLED GYOUKAN PRETTY, DON'T YOU THINK?"
"WHAT'S YOUR NAME?"
No matter how much I try to suppress them, my memories of her keep roaring back.
"MY NAME COMES FROM YOUHIKI *"

* A famous Chinese figure known for her beauty

One after another they...
She had this look of complete disinterest after she asked what my name was.
That was shortly after I first moved here..
IS THAT YOUR DINNER?
MY MOM'S BUSY WITH WORK, SO
WHAT A PLAIN NAME IT'S ONE YOU'D FORGET AFTER HEARING IT ONCE!
OH, SO YOU LIVE ALONE WITH YOUR MOM?
SO I GUESS THAT MEANS YOUR MOM WORKS AT THE FACTORY, HUH?

I didn't know where she got them, but she was always eating imported snacks that looked like they were really bad for you.
I BET YOUR MOM WAS HIRED TO REPLACE HER
THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO GOT HURT IN THE FIRE THAT BROKE OUT AT THE FACTORY LAST MONTH
More than the words coming out of her mouth though, I was more interested in the vibrant-colored candy in her mouth.
YEAH
Stuff like candy that was almost too pretty in color, and chocolates that were too sweet.
...
DO YOU ALWAYS EAT STUFF LIKE THAT FOR DINNER?
THAT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOU, YOU KNOW.
...
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT KIND OF STUFF IS CALLED, DON'T YOU? "JUNK FOOD"!
HEY, HERE'S AN IDEA!
I'LL CALL YOU "JUNK" FROM NOW ON.
"JUNK"?

IT'S ANOTHER WORD FOR SAYING TRASH!
Trash.
So what? No matter what she puts into her body that's not good for her, she's never trash?
But here I am being called "junk"...?
WHERE ARE WE GOING, TAMAKI-CHAN...?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHERE ARE WE GOING? DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
WE'RE STILL IN THE YARD OF THE COMPLEX.
YOU SAID YOU DON'T KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND THE COMPLEX YET, RIGHT?
AND THAT GIVEN THE CHANCE YOU'D LOSE YOUR WAY, REMEMBER?

THIS IS TRAINING SO THAT YOU CAN GO HOME BY YOURSELF!
...
OH, YEAH!
...
THAT REMINDS ME.
I SAW YOU THE OTHER DAY.
HUH?
EATING DINNER WITH YOUR MOM.

I WAS REALLY SURPRISED!
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
YOUR MOM THREW A RICE BOWL AT YOU.

HEY, WHY'D SHE DO THAT ANYWAY?
MY MOM'S ALWAYS TIRED, SO SOMETIMES SHE GETS MAD AND DOES THAT...
BUT SHE HAS TO WORK REALLY HARD
SO I CAN'T REALLY BLAME HER...

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OFF UNTIL I COUNT TO TEN, GOT IT?!
AH!
Swish
HUH, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
JUNK, YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING, YOU KNOW THAT?
YOUR ENDURANCE LEVEL MUST BE REALLY HIGH!
Pitter Patter Pitter
Giggle
Somewhere nearby, Tamaki's laughing.
silence
HEY!

THANKS.
...
THEN WALK STRAIGHT AND TURN LEFT AGAIN. THEN YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FIND YOUR WAY HOME.
GO LEFT.
YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY.
...
blink
KYA!
SWISH
BUZZZZ
...

蜜蜂那种东西全都死了才好呢！
(All the bees in the world should all just drop dead!)
快点儿
SLAP
(HURRY!)*
KILL IT! KILL IT!
NAO-HIKO!
有什么可怜呀！
(What're you feeling sorry for that bee for?!)
POOR BEE...
***PLEASE NOTE: most of what she says on here are in Chinese. The Japanese is written in small text.
EVER SINCE ONE WENT UP HER SKIRT A FEW MONTHS BACK.
SHE'S BEEN SCARED OF BEES
YOU KNOW ...
Tamaki's mom was Chinese, so whenever she got really emotional, she would sometimes reverted back to speaking in Chinese.
...
把那个蜜蜂扔掉！
(Throw that bee away!)
尚彦！
(Naohiko!)
AND...

swish
YOU'RE NOT THE BOSS OF ME
Grr...
...Hmph
EXHALES
HE'S SCARED OF FIRE.
I found that really strange.
Even though Naohiko-kun looked really unhappy, he always went along with what she said.

THUNK
THUNK
HE'S LIKE AN ANIMAL
IT'S CUTE, REALLY
THUNK
IS THAT A GRAVE FOR THE BEE YOU KILLED?
TRASH...?
IT'S NOT A GRAVE! IT'S A PLACE WHERE I THROW TRASH AWAY!
DO YOU ALWAYS MAKE A GRAVE FOR THEM LIKE THAT?
HEY! DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
DON'T LOOK!

I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM, YOU KNOW?
I... REALLY HATE IT.
EVEN IF THEY'RE INSECTS,
THEY'RE STILL ALIVE. TO KILL THEM FOR NO REASON LIKE THAT ...
BUT... YOU'RE COVERING IT UP WITH DIRT.
SHUT UP, WILL YOU ?!
GEEZ ...
YOU'RE REALLY KIND.
PSHH YEAH, WHATEVER ...
AND LIKE, YOU ALWAYS HELP ME OUT LATER ON.
...
JUST BE HONEST. YOU THINK I'M SPINELESS TOO. DON'T YOU?
HUH?

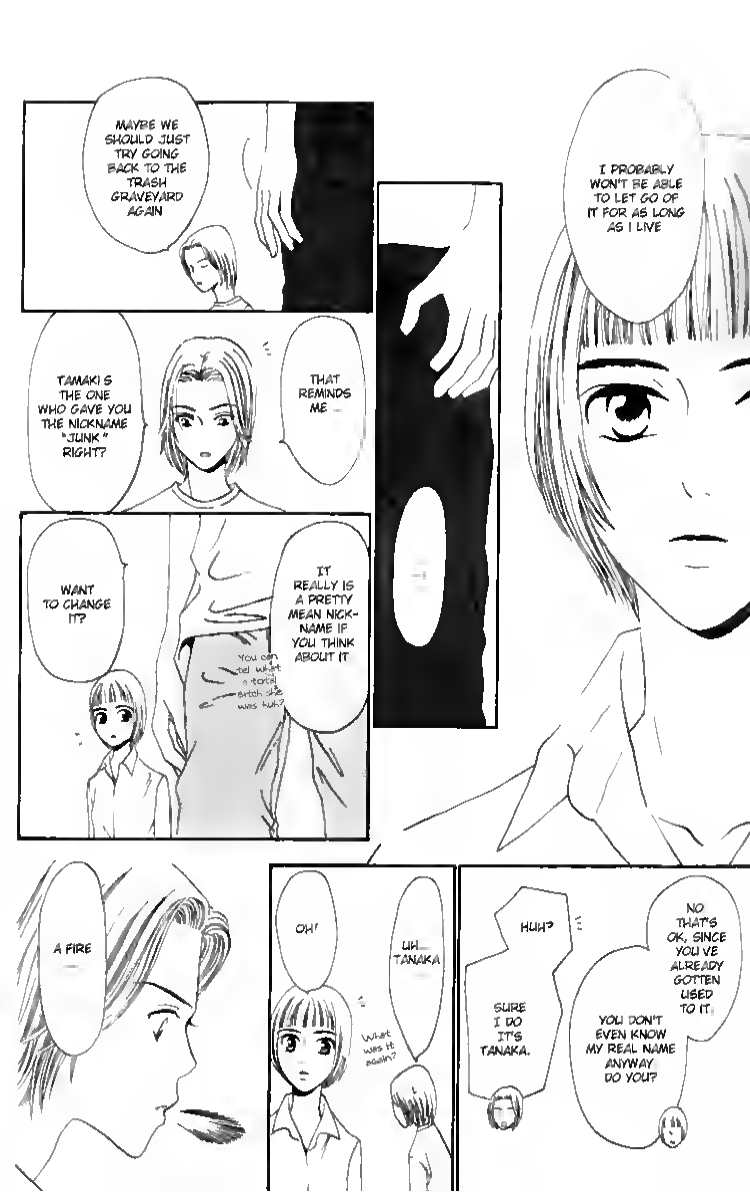
I
DON'T THINK THAT
IT'S THE SAME FOR THIS BEE
The Bee's Grave-stone
YOU PROBABLY THINK THAT IF I'M GOING TO HELP YOU OUT ANYWAY I SHOULD JUST HELP YOU OUT FROM THE VERY BEGINNING
IF I'M JUST GOING TO DIG A GRAVE FOR IT LATER, I SHOULD'VE NEVER KILLED IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
INSTEAD OF ALWAYS BEING AT TAMAKI'S BECK AND CALL EVERY TIME SHE'S AROUND.
I CAN'T DISOBEY HER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER BECAUSE IT'S THE TRUTH.
YOU KNOW JUNK I CAN NEVER REALLY TELL WHAT YOU'RE THINKING
REALLY?
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE SPINELESS.
YOU ALWAYS HAVE THIS POKER FACE, AND YOU NEVER LAUGH OR CRY OR GET ANGRY.

EVEN WHEN TAMAKI PICKS ON YOU, YOU NEVER SPEAK UP ABOUT IT,
AND EVEN WHEN I GET INTO A FIGHT WITH HER, YOU'RE ALWAYS JUST SILENTLY WATCHING
As for me, when she goes on, I don't hold back, but I get pissed off!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE THE WAY YOU ARE THAT MAKES TAMAKI WANT TO PICK ON YOU
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ALWAYS ACTING LIKE NOTHING EVER FAZES YOU
THAT'S...
THAT'S NOT TRUE
THERE...
ARE THINGS THAT I DON'T LIKE
AND THERE ARE THINGS THAT MAKE ME SAD...

But
to be honest, I..
but ever since my mom started going into hysterics, I just naturally became like that
and I can't say anything..
"YOUR ENDURANCE LEVEL MUST BE REALLY HIGH!"
It's just...when the other person gets emotional, I revert back into myself
That's not true.
YOU SHOULD JUST LET IT ALL OUT
THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO KEEP IT ALL BOTTLED UP INSIDE
THEN YOU SHOULD SPEAK UP ABOUT IT

AND YOU SHOULD TRY LETTING OUT A YELL SOMETIME, TOO
It really helps!
Pedro
OTHERWISE, IT'LL GET REALLY SUFFOCATING IN THERE!
...
DID YOU FIND IT?
NO.
stamps
WHY CAN'T I FIND IT?!
UGH, FUCK!

This is every time I miss the car
JUNK!
YOU SHOULD HELP OUT, TOO!
WELL I'M READY TO HELP YOU OUT,
BUT SINCE YOU REFUSE TO TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO HELP YOU
...
IS IT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO YOU?
I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR IT EVER SINCE TAMAKI DIED.
BUT I COULD NEVER FIND IT.
THERE WERE LOTS OF TIMES I THOUGHT, "SCREW THIS,"
BUT IT ALWAYS ENDED UP WITH ME COMING BACK HERE
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T FIND IT?


MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST TRY GOING BACK TO THE TRASH GRAVEYARD AGAIN
I PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO LET GO OF IT FOR AS LONG AS I LIVE
TAMAKI IS THE ONE WHO GAVE YOU THE NICKNAME "JUNK" RIGHT?
THAT REMINDS ME...
IT REALLY IS A PRETTY MEAN NICK-NAME IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT
WANT TO CHANGE IT?
You can tell what a total bitch she was huh?
A FIRE...
OH!
UH... TANAKA
What was it again?
HUH?
SURE I DO IT'S TANAKA.
NO THAT'S OK, SINCE YOU'VE ALREADY GOTTEN USED TO IT.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW MY REAL NAME ANYWAY DO YOU?

IT'S CLOSE BY...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
NAOHIKO-KUN?
...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
wee woo

YOU'RE... STILL AFRAID OF FIRE, HUH?
LIAR!
I'M FINE.
...
I'M NOT SCARED

THE SUN'S ALREADY GONE DOWN.
HUH?
YEAH, SURE...
DO YOU WANT SOME LIGHT?
DAMN-IT...
IT'S SO DARK...
SURE
LET'S GO.
OH
MY SHOE LACE

"YOU SPINELESS COWARD! IF YOU'RE REALLY NOT AFRAID OF DARK PLACES, THEN DO IT!"
"I PLACED A CANDLE IN THE FAR SIDE OF THE STORAGE ROOM."
WHEN YOU GET THERE, LIGHT IT!
"MAKE SURE YOU GO IN, MAKE SURE TO GO TO THE VERY END."
"HERE, I'LL LET YOU BORROW MY LIGHTER."

WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT...?
WHY ...?
...
DID YOU KNOW ALL ALONG?
THAT CAN'T BE ...
....
YOU'RE LETTING SOME LAME AWARD GET TO YOUR HEAD, AREN'T YOU?
THEN RIP THAT PICTURE UP!
...HUH?
...SELF-CENTERED MUCH?
I—
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
REALLY?
IF IT'S NOT THAT BIG OF A DEAL, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO RIP IT WITHOUT A PROBLEM!

OR WHAT, YOU CAN'T DO IT?
THEN WHY DON'T WE SET IT ON FIRE?
...!
SNAP!
WOW,
IT'S LIGHTING UP!
BLINKS
I HATE YOU!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST DISAPPEAR!
WHAT, NAOHIKO?
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ME?
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE A TERRIBLE PERSON!

…你太狂妄了
NEVER AGAIN!
I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO WHAT YOU SAY ANYMORE!
IT PISSES ME OFF WHENEVER I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
SHUT UP! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING
如果背叛我
你知道有什么下场吗!?
I SAID I DON'T UNDER-STAND!
毛孩子
你给我闭嘴
否则我会把你的
秘密公布于众的!
WHAAA
NAO-HIKO'S REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF.
SHUT UP!
如果你被败露了
就会被抓住的
所以不能再让
你住在这儿了!!

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO HIM EARLIER?
WHAT A USE-LESS MUTT
I TOLD HIM I WAS GOING TO RAT ON HIM
I TOLD YOU THERE WAS A FIRE AT THE FACTORY LAST MONTH, RIGHT?
HE WAS THE ONE THAT DID IT
HE KNOCKED OVER THE CANDLE THAT WAS IN THE STORAGE ROOM.
WHAT A MORON
THIS
IS THE PROOF FROM THAT NIGHT...
I WAS JUST TESTING OUT HIS GUTS
BUT HE FELT ALL RESPONSIBLE YOU KNOW?
Since people got hurt.
WERE YOU BLACK-MAILING HIM?
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE END OF THE ROAD FOR HIM!
I COULDN'T CARE LESS WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM.
HE PISSED ME OFF THOUGH, SO I'M GOING TO RAT ON HIM.
I HEARD ARSON'S A PRETTY SERIOUS CRIME!
IT'S PROBABLY SAYONARA FOR HIM!
I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO HIM?

YOU KNOW, I NEVER REALLY GET WHAT'S GOING THROUGH YOUR MIND.
YOU ALWAYS LISTEN TO WHATEVER I SAY,
BUT YOU'RE HIDING YOUR TRUE SELF, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU BEING LITTLE-MISS GOODY-TWO SHOES FOR?
THEN WHAT?
I'M NOT...
YOU CAN'T DO THAT.
HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO...
EPS!
I'M NOT...
LIAR BE HONEST... YOU DON'T LIKE ME, DO YOU?
COME ON SAY IT
IF YOU TELL ON NAOHIKO-KUN...
I'LL...
REALLY HATE YOU
WELL... I'M STILL TELLING!
BA-DUMP
IS THAT RIGHT?

WHIRRRR
to purposely provoke me.
BA-DUMP?
WHIRR
and walking along the ledge of the road
BA-DUMP
WHIRR
BA-DUMP
She's skipping
WHIRR
WHIRR
WHAT?!
KYA!
THUD
TAMAKI-CHAN, THERE'S A BEE ON YOUR LEG.

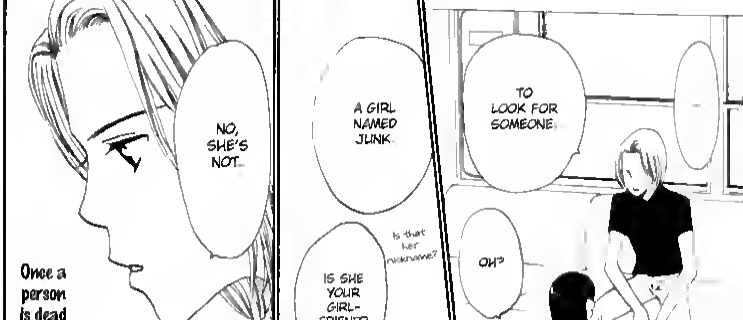
All too soon, she fell into the stagnant water of the drain ditch after losing her balance...
It happened in the blink of an eye.
WHY DID YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT ...
WHY ?
WAIT!
SWISH
TELL ME!
OTHERWISE, I WON'T UNDERSTAND !

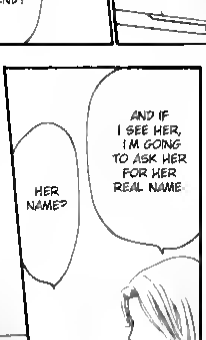
"THEN YOU SHOULD SPEAK UP ABOUT IT."
"THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU TO KEEP IT ALL BOTTLED UP INSIDE."
BECAUSE I WAS REALLY HAPPY
THAT YOU TOOK MY SIDE
AND THAT YOU REALLY CARED ABOUT MY FEELINGS
"YOU SHOULD JUST LET IT ALL OUT."
I WAS JUST...
WAS THAT ALL?
IT WAS ALSO BECAUSE I LIKED YOU.
THAT'S WHY I KILLED HER.
JUNK
I CAN'T BE HERE ANYMORE

TO BE HONEST, I NEVER WANTED TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE
...
I WISH I COULD HAVE STAYED BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER!
IF ONLY ..

AND I COMMITTED AN UNFORGIV-ABLE SIN...
BECAUSE I'M HUMAN TRASH...
BUT I CAN'T
GOOD-BYE
Finally.
I was able to come clean about the past.
If it had been possible, I wish I could've kept it a secret forever...
DON'T CALL YOURSELF TRASH!!

clank clank
clank clank
HEY SAYA-CHAN! QUIET DOWN!
patter patter
JUNK ...
HEY WHERE YOU HEADED?
clank clank
clank clank
clank clank
clank clank
clank clank

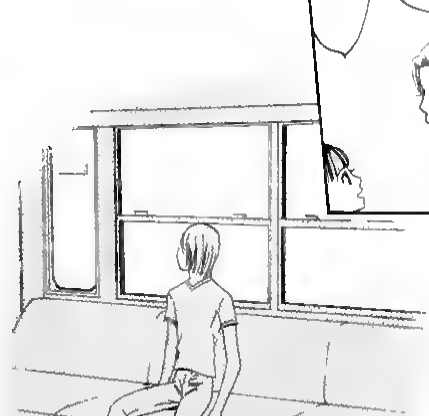


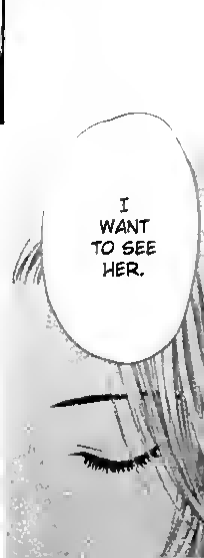


That's right ...your name.

they remain silent

and there's never a chance for them to come back and haunt you.





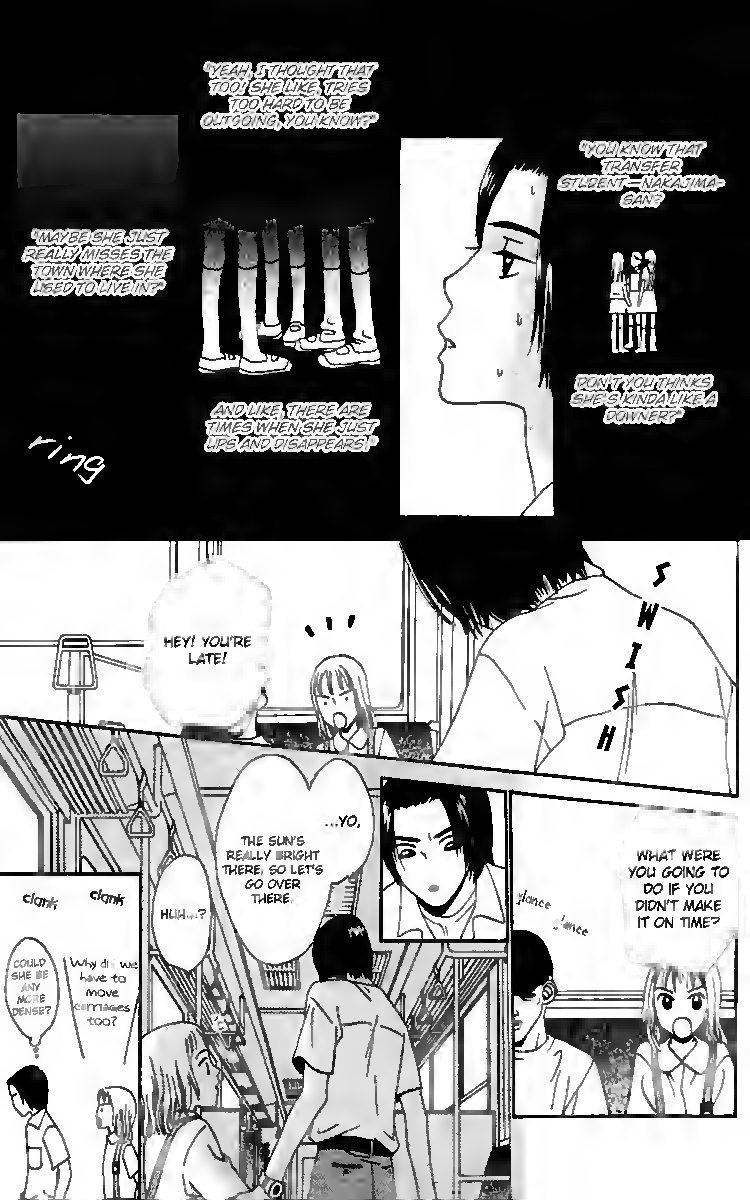
JUNK/THE END

FARE DODGING

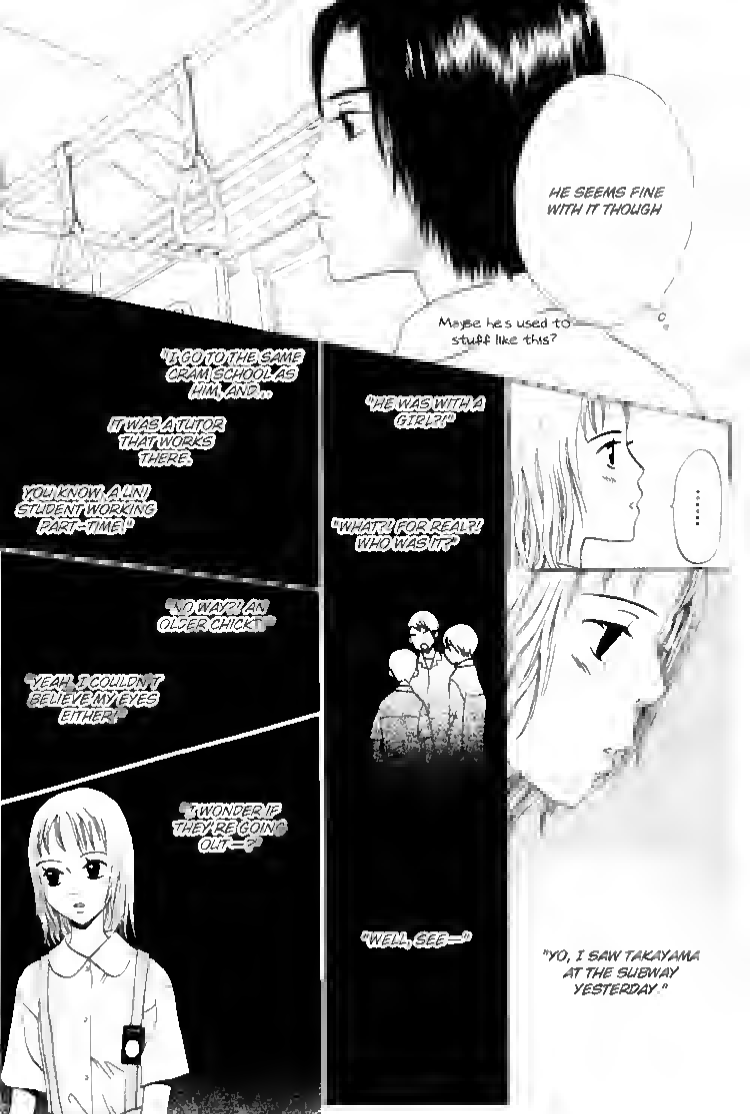
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
SPLASH
SPLASH
HEY, LOOK AT THAT STORM!
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
WHOA!
CRASH
WOW, IT'S POURING!
HEY,
DON'T YOU THINK THAT THAT RED TRAIN THAT JUST PASSED WAS REALLY CUTE?
LET'S RIDE THAT ONE NEXT
.....
HEY ARE YOU LISTENING?
TAKAYAMA-KUN, DON'T FALL ASLEEP ON ME...
KEOLE—

SWISH
.....
DON'T TOUCH ME
freeze
OH .SO YOU WERE AWAKE?
I JUST WOKE UP
WHERE ARE WE...?
Oh Nishioka, huh?
WE SHOULD JUST TAKE OUR TIME
IT'LL BE MORE FUN THAT WAY!
excited!
excited!
HEY!
IT'S STARTING TO CLEAR UP!
IF YOU SAY SO...
BUT IT'S A LOCAL TRAIN, SO IT'LL BE PRETTY SLOW
SURE
YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A RED TRAIN?
WHAT NAKAJIMA?
I WANT TO RIDE ONE
IT DOESN'T MATTER.

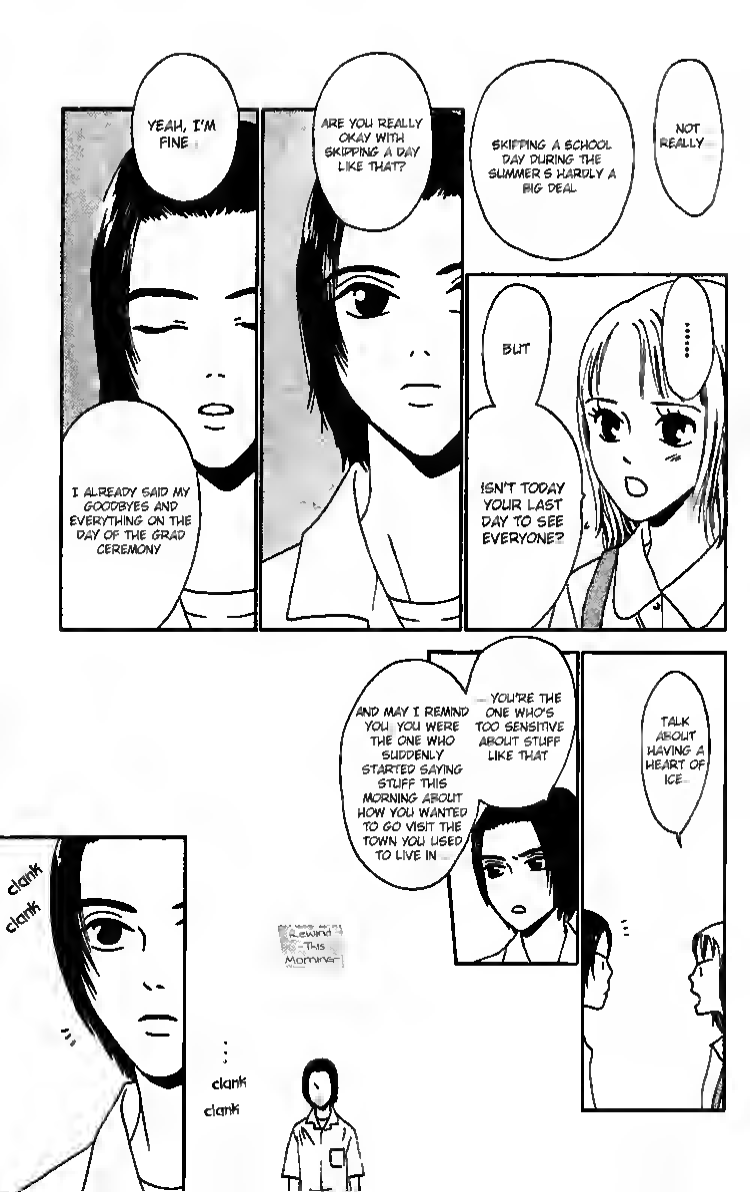
mi—n
mi—n
mi—n
PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT FOR THE TRAIN TO START
THE SKY... LOOKS SO PRETTY!
CLINK
mi—n
mi—n
UGH, IT'S SO FRIGGIN' HOT
CLICK
I LOVE IT IN THE SUMMER!
I LOVE HOW GREEN EVERYTHING IS TOO!
mi—n
mi—n
mi—n

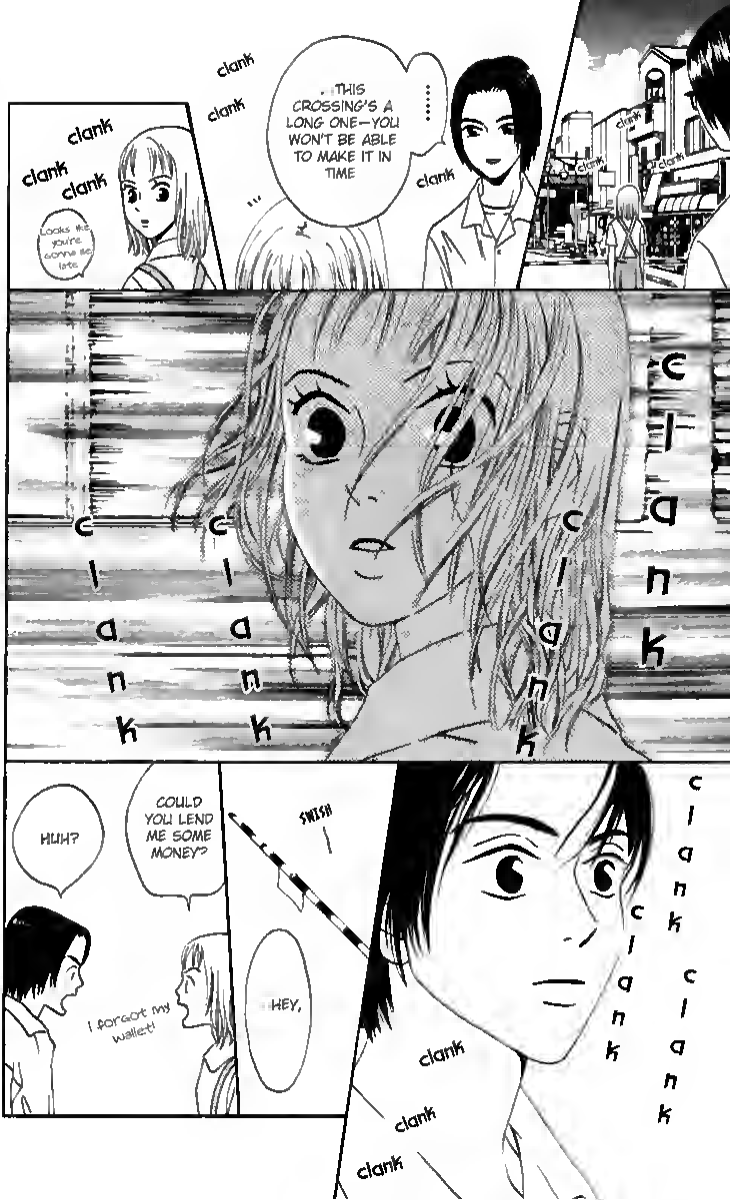

"YEAH, I THOUGHT THAT TOO! SHE LIKE TRIES TOO HARD TO BE OUTGOING, YOU KNOW?"
"MAYBE SHE JUST REALLY MISSES THE TOWN WHERE SHE USED TO LIVE IN?"
AND LIKE, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN SHE JUST UPS AND DISAPPEARS!
ring
"YOU KNOW THAT TRANSFER STUDENT—NAKAJIMA-SAN?
DON'T YOU THINKS SHE'S KINDA LIKE A DOWNER?
SWISH
HEY! YOU'RE LATE!
...YO,
THE SUN'S REALLY BRIGHT THERE, SO LET'S GO OVER THERE.
HUH...?
clank clank
COULD SHE BE ANY MORE DENSE?
Why do we have to move carriages too?
dance dance
WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO DO IF YOU DIDN'T MAKE IT ON TIME?

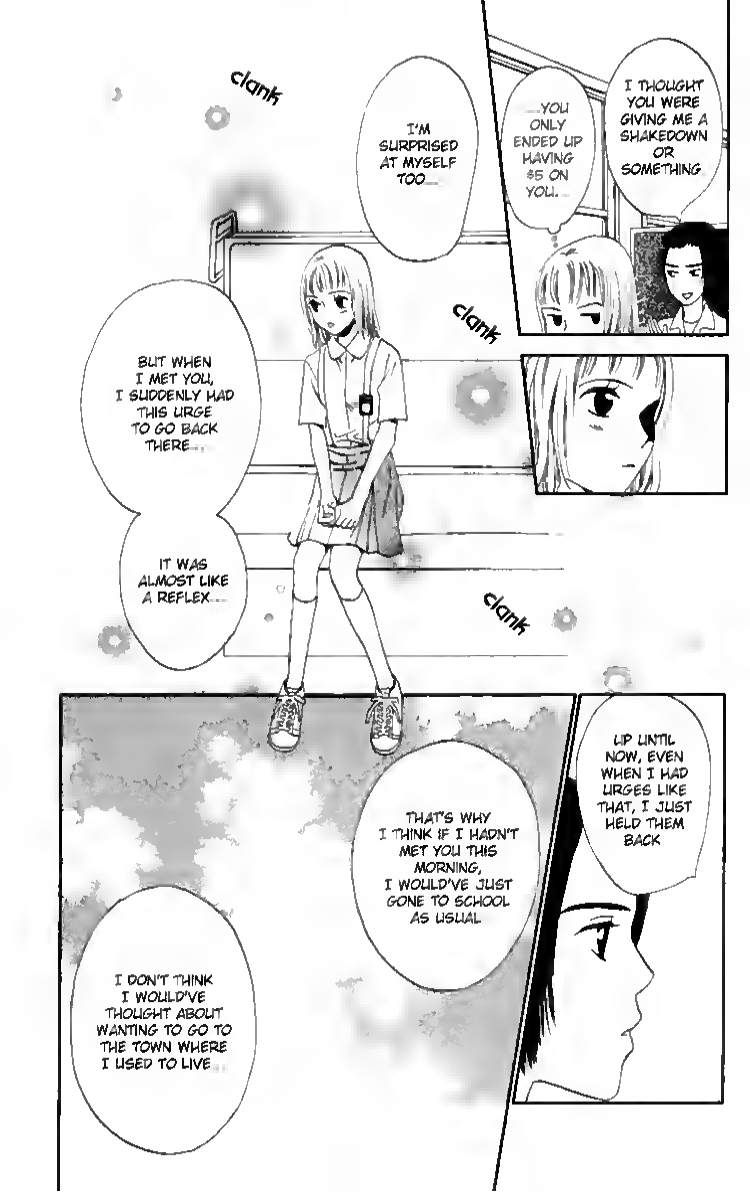
20 CENTS
HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE LEFT NOW?
THANKS!
WHERE'S MY "THANK YOU"?
HEY!
ICE TEA!
This is awesome!
COLD!
SWISH
HEY, WHO DO YOU HAVE TO THANK FOR BEING ABLE TO RIDE ON THE TRAIN LIKE THIS—!
AHAHA, LAME!
Snicker
THANKS TO Y—
CLANK
GRABS
HEY, THERE'RE SEATS OVER THERE!
Let's go over there
WATCH IT!
TALK ABOUT NOT HAVING IMMUNITY FROM...
ba-dump
HEY NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT WE'RE ALL ALONE
ba-dump
.....

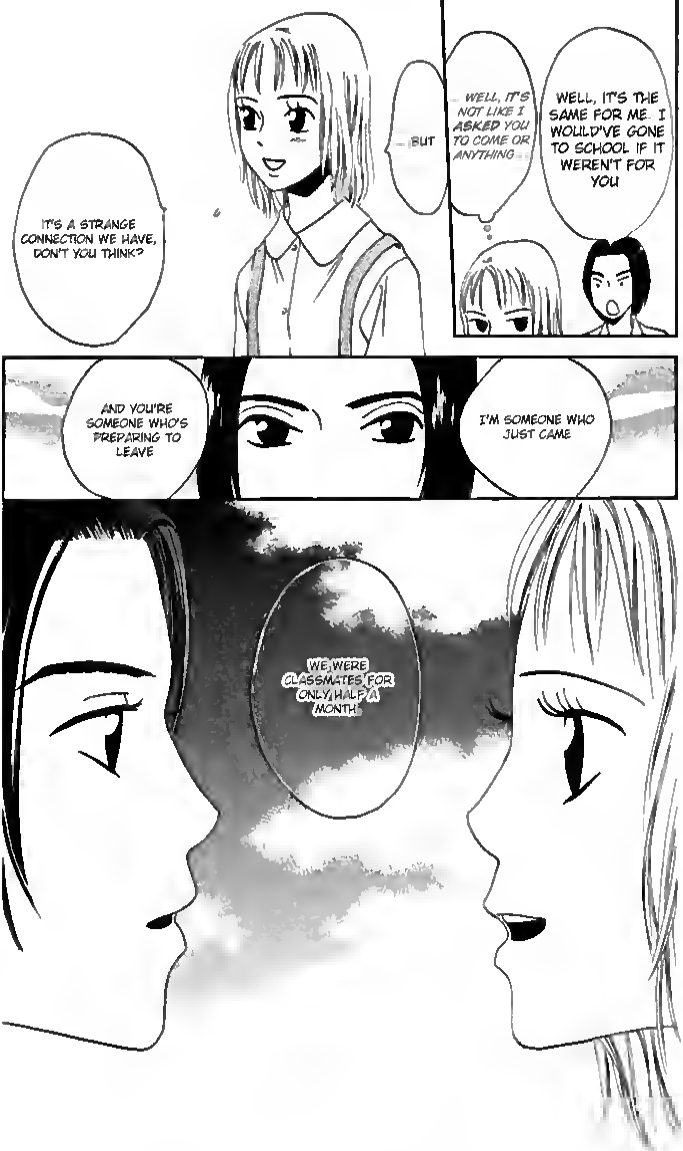

HE SEEMS FINE WITH IT THOUGH
Maybe he's used to stuff like this?
"I GO TO THE SAME CRAM SCHOOL AS HIM, AND...
IT WAS A TUTOR THAT WORKS THERE.
YOU KNOW, A UNI STUDENT WORKING PART-TIME."
"NO WAY?! AN OLDER CHICK?!"
"YEAH, I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EYES EITHER."
"I WONDER IF THEY'RE GOING OUT—?"
"HE WAS WITH A GIRL?!"
"WHAT?! FOR REAL?! WHO WAS IT?"
"WELL, SEE—"
"YO, I SAW TAKAYAMA AT THE SUBWAY YESTERDAY."
.....

BUT HE DOES HAVE A PRETTY HANDSOME FACE, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
WELL, THEY'RE JUST RUMOURS
WHY'RE YOU BLUSHING?
PERVERTED THOUGHTS
SWISH
SWISH
.....
YOUR CONSCIENCE GETTING TO YOU?


YEAH, I'M FINE
I ALREADY SAID MY GOODBYES AND EVERYTHING ON THE DAY OF THE GRAD CEREMONY
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH SKIPPING A DAY LIKE THAT?
SKIPPING A SCHOOL DAY DURING THE SUMMER S HARDLY A BIG DEAL
NOT REALLY
BUT
ISN'T TODAY YOUR LAST DAY TO SEE EVERYONE?
.....
TALK ABOUT HAVING A HEART OF ICE
—YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S TOO SENSITIVE ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT
AND MAY I REMIND YOU, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SUDDENLY STARTED SAYING STUFF THIS MORNING ABOUT HOW YOU WANTED TO GO VISIT THE TOWN YOU USED TO LIVE IN...
clank
clank
clank
clank

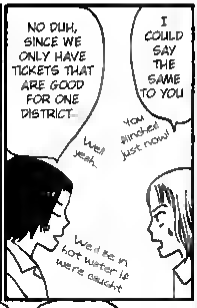

clank
clank
clank

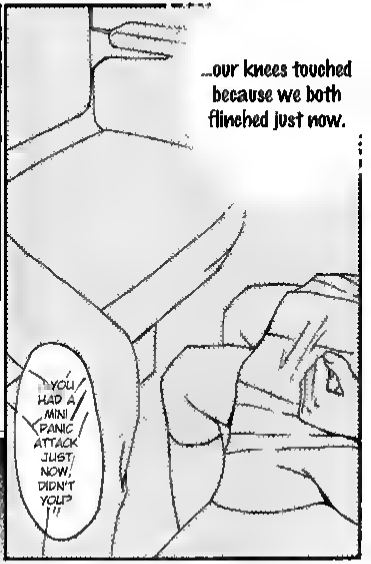

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GIVING ME A SHAKEDOWN OR SOMETHING
...YOU ONLY ENDED UP HAVING $5 ON YOU...
I'M SURPRISED AT MYSELF TOO...
clank
clank
clank
BUT WHEN I MET YOU, I SUDDENLY HAD THIS URGE TO GO BACK THERE...
IT WAS ALMOST LIKE A REFLEX...
UP UNTIL NOW, EVEN WHEN I HAD URGES LIKE THAT, I JUST HELD THEM BACK
THAT'S WHY I THINK IF I HADN'T MET YOU THIS MORNING, I WOULD'VE JUST GONE TO SCHOOL AS USUAL
I DON'T THINK I WOULD'VE THOUGHT ABOUT WANTING TO GO TO THE TOWN WHERE I USED TO LIVE...


WELL, IT'S THE SAME FOR ME. I WOULD'VE GONE TO SCHOOL IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I ASKED YOU TO COME OR ANYTHING...
...BUT
IT'S A STRANGE CONNECTION WE HAVE, DON'T YOU THINK?
I'M SOMEONE WHO JUST CAME
AND YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO'S PREPARING TO LEAVE
WE WERE CLASSMATES FOR ONLY HALF A MONTH.

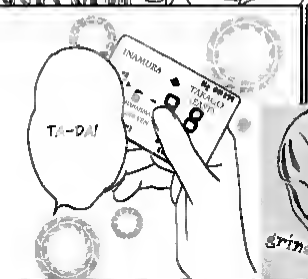
IF YOU WILL BE SWITCHING TRAINS, PLEASE BE READY TO—
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
IS TAKAGO— TAKAGO—
THE NEXT STOP
WELL, I GUESS
CLINCH

THE GOOD NEWS IS...
BUT...
I'VE FINALLY COME TO A PLACE THAT I'M FAMILIAR WITH!


NO DUH, SINCE WE ONLY HAVE TICKETS THAT ARE GOOD FOR ONE DISTRICT.
I COULD SAY THE SAME TO YOU
You flinched just now!
Well yeah.
We'll be in hot water if we're caught.


...our knees touched because we both flinched just now.
YOU HAD A MINI PANIC ATTACK JUST NOW, DIDN'T YOU?!

Brings back memories
YOU CAN SEE THE FERRIS WHEEL AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK!
IF WE GO ACROSS THE BRIDGE,
.....


T.A-DA!
grins

AND EVEN IF WE GET OFF, WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE STATION
BUT WE DON'T HAVE PROPER TICKETS,
You know that?

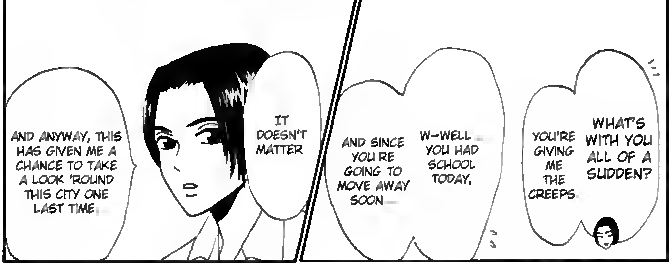
A TRAIN PASS?
THIS IS THE ONE MY SIS USED TO USE AT HER OLD SCHOOL.
GOT IT FROM HER!
.....
IT HASN'T EXPIRED YET, SO I SHOULD BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE STATION NO PROBLEM!
W-
WELL...IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM RIDING THE TRAIN THIS FAR ON AN ONE DISTRICT TICKET!
WELL, IT SHOULD BE OKAY SINCE I'M NOT GETTING OFF
WHEN I GET OFF I'M GOING TO STILL BE INSIDE THAT ONE DISTRICT.
BA-DUMP
.....
THAT'S FARE DODGING THOUGH.
I-IT IS THE SAME...
EVEN IF YOU DON'T GET OFF
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLE-M...?
At that very moment, all the guilt that I had been subconsciously feeling all came bubbling to surface.

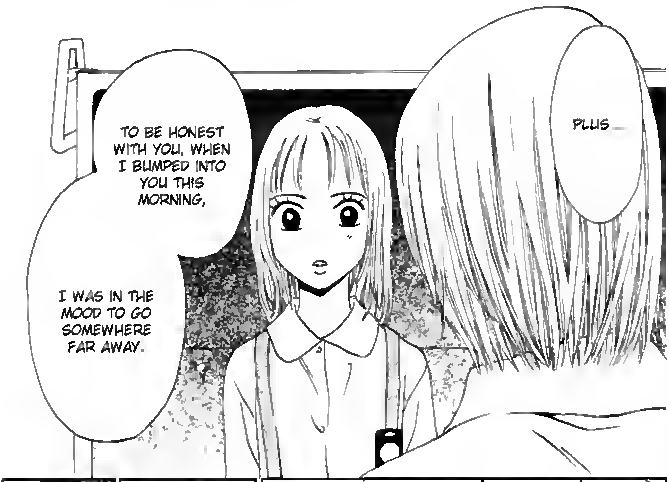
...the sun's rays've switched sides, and it's beating straight down on me.
I-IT'S NOT LIKE...
I ASKED YOU TO COME WITH ME IN THE FIRST PLACE...
It's beating down on me...
and it's so very hot.
...IF YOU FEEL THAT BAD ABOUT IT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO BACK?
...LIKE I COULD DO THAT.
YEAH, I THOUGHT THAT TOO! SHE LIKE TRIES TOO HARD TO BE OUTGOING, YOU KNOW?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S NOT SAFE?!
WHAT? DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO TRY AND PULL SOMETHING?!
OR WHAT? DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO GET LOST, LIKE A LITTLE KID?
THAT WOULDN'T BE SAFE!
I'D WORRY ABOUT YOU!
I'LL BE FINE WITHOUT YOU
I CAN MAKE IT THERE BY MYSELF...
I DON'T NEED YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME—

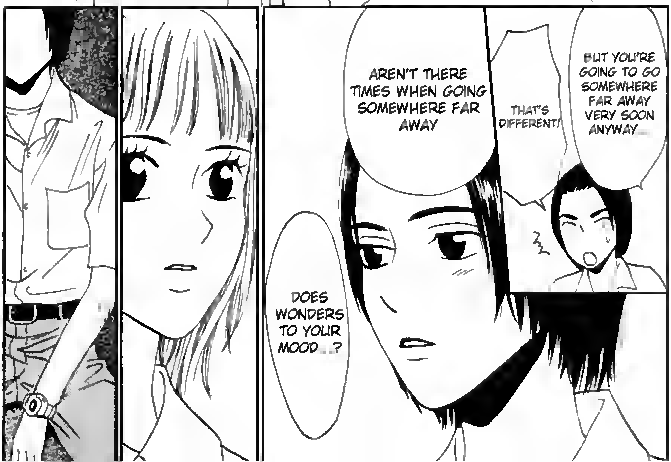
clank
SEE YA!
I'LL GET OFF AT THE NEXT STOP AND GO HOME.
FINE THEN...
We will be arriving shortly at Takago
...YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF...
FORGET IT.
clank
clank
SWISH
We will be stopping momentarily for the other train to pass
The door will be closing Please take care-
ring
ring
clank
clank
clank
clank
clank
clank

SWISH
STEP
I'VE ALREADY COME THIS FAR...
I might as well go to the very end.
AND BESIDES, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET BACK BY YOURSELF, DO YOU?
DON'T GO CRYING ON ME NOW.
I'M NOT!

clank
clank
clank
pi
pi
s
pi
pi
clank
WHAT IS THAT?
...OH IT'S JUST TIME FOR MY CRAM SCHOOL
CRAM SCHOOL...
ARE YOU SURE IT'S OKAY IF YOU MISS IT?
I QUIT THE PLACE YESTERDAY,
SO IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE...
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, I KINDA MADE YOU COME WITH ME...
SORRY
.....

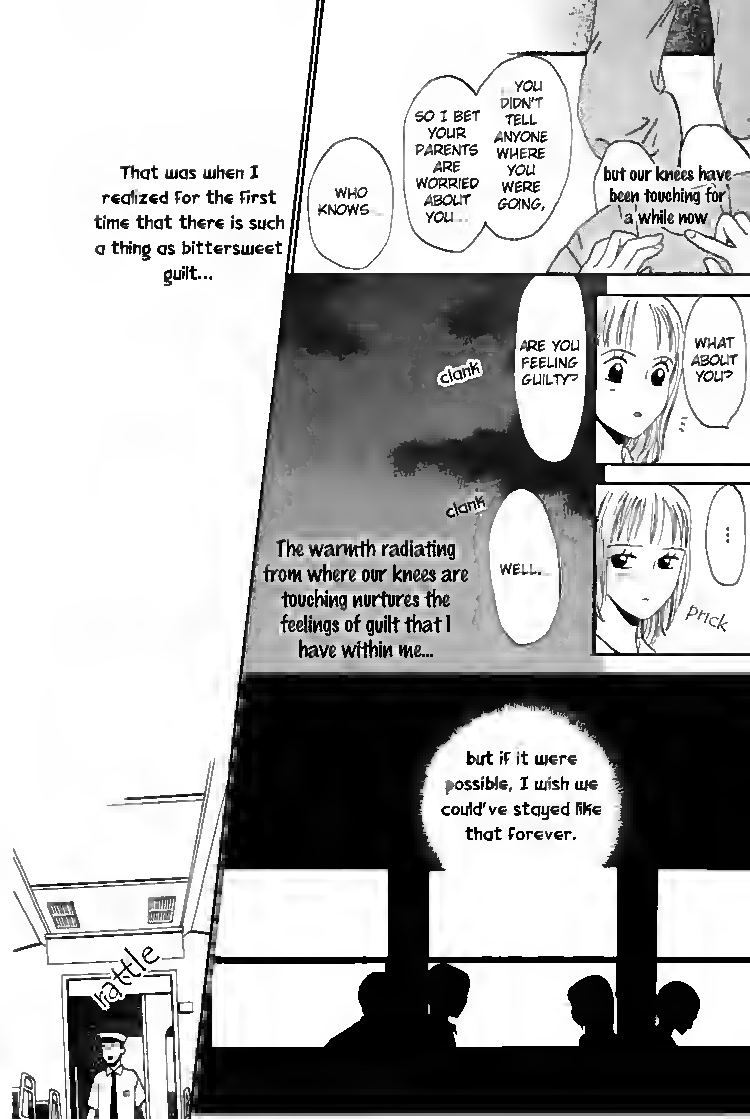

WHAT'S WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN?
YOU'RE GIVING ME THE CREEPS.
W-WELL... YOU HAD SCHOOL TODAY,
AND SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO MOVE AWAY SOON...
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
AND ANYWAY, THIS HAS GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO TAKE A LOOK 'ROUND THIS CITY ONE LAST TIME.

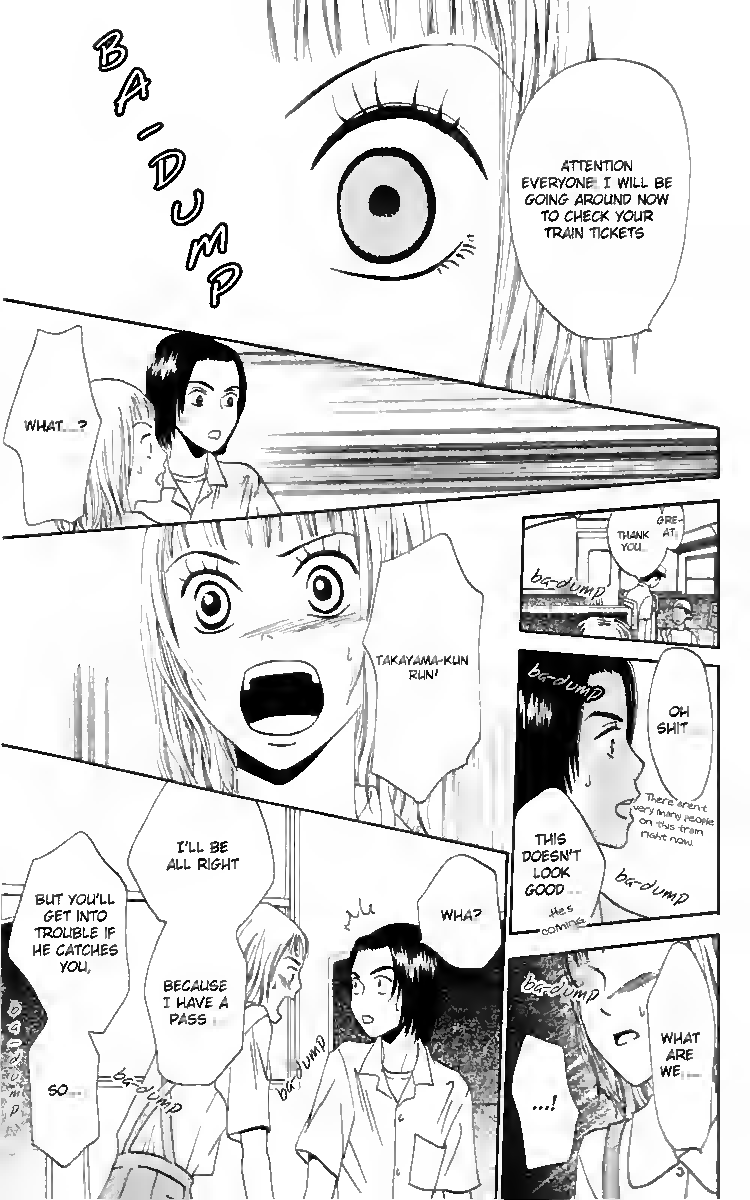

PLUS...
TO BE HONEST WITH YOU, WHEN I BUMPED INTO YOU THIS MORNING,
I WAS IN THE MOOD TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY.

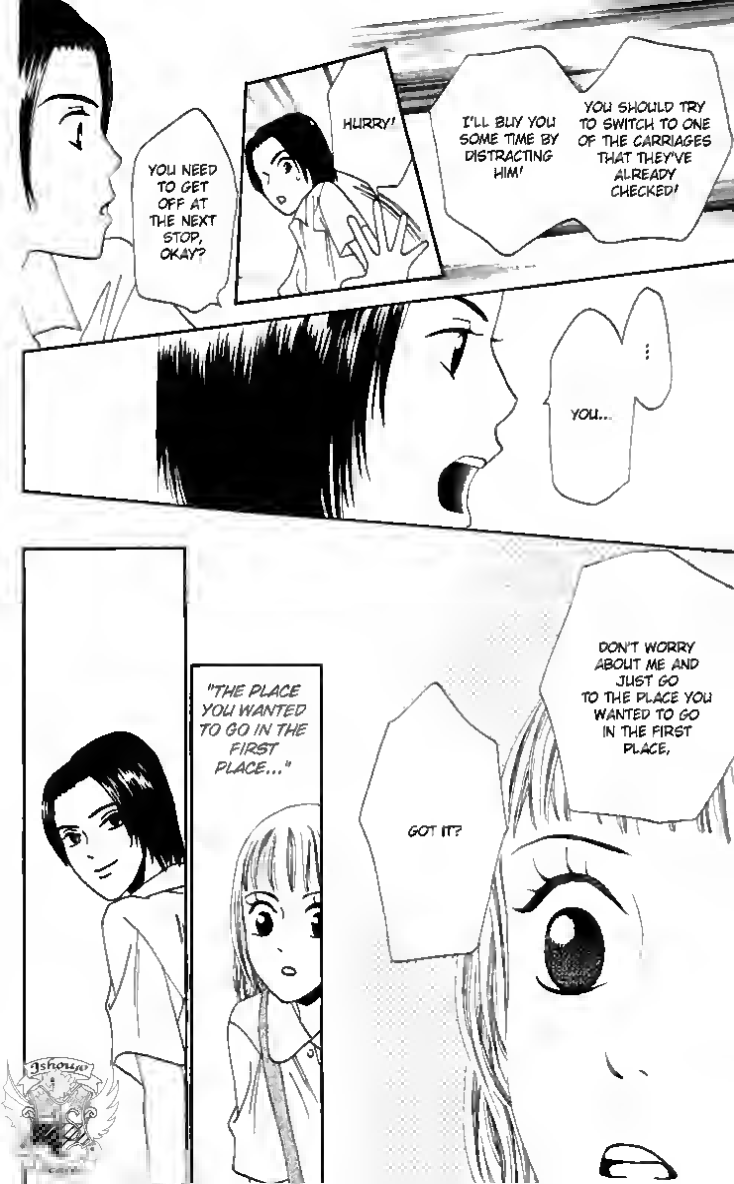

BUT YOU'RE GOING TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY VERY SOON ANYWAY...
THAT'S DIFFERENT!
AREN'T THERE TIMES WHEN GOING SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY
DOES WONDERS TO YOUR MOOD...?

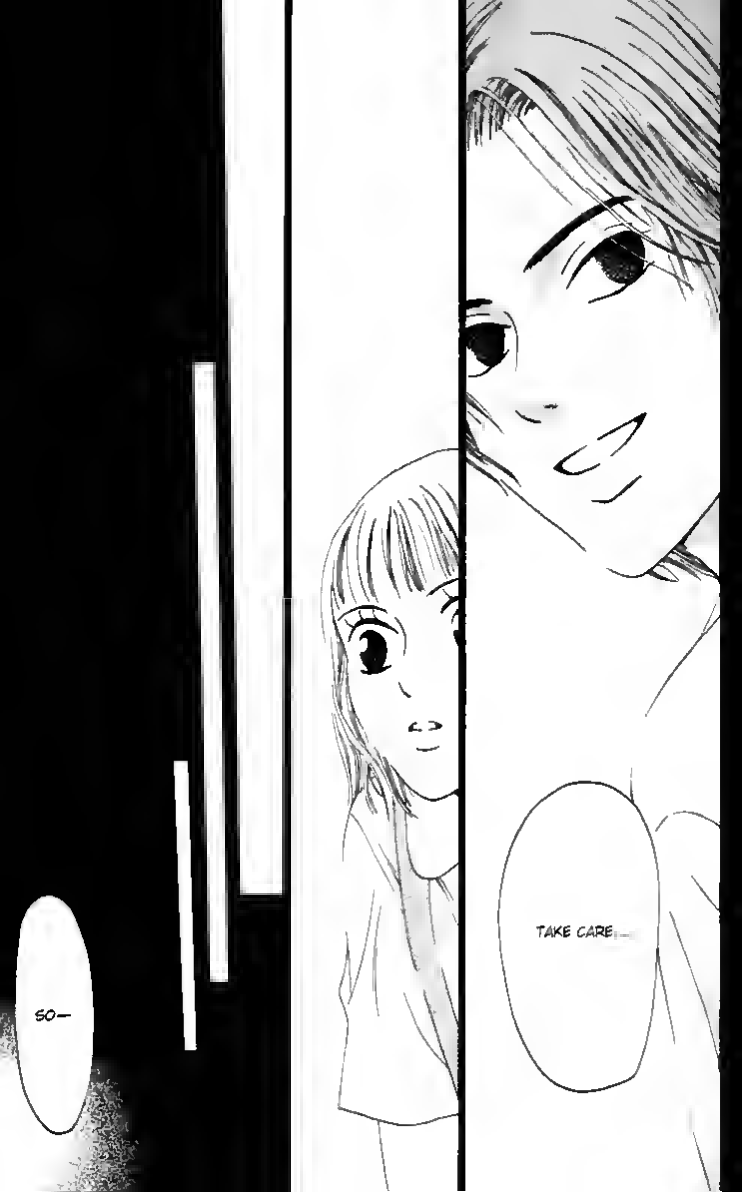
BUT IT'S GOTTEN A LOT BETTER...
YEAH, IT DOES
...DOES THAT HURT?
WELL, IT DID HURT.
.....
OUR EYES MET A LOT AT SCHOOL, DON'T YOU THINK?
IF THIS WASN'T JUST ALL IN MY HEAD,
HEY, HEY!
THE WAY YOU LOOKED AT YOUR FRIENDS, AND YOUR CLASS, AND YOUR SCHOOL MADE ME FEEL LIKE YOU WERE ALREADY GETTING READY TO LEAVE, YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE I ALWAYS GOT THIS SENSE FROM YOU THAT YOU WERE SOMEONE WHO WAS GOING TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...
HUH...? I'M NOT SURE...
WELL, YOU DID CATCH MY EYE PRETTY OFTEN..
THAT'S WHY I WAS DRAWN TO YOU.

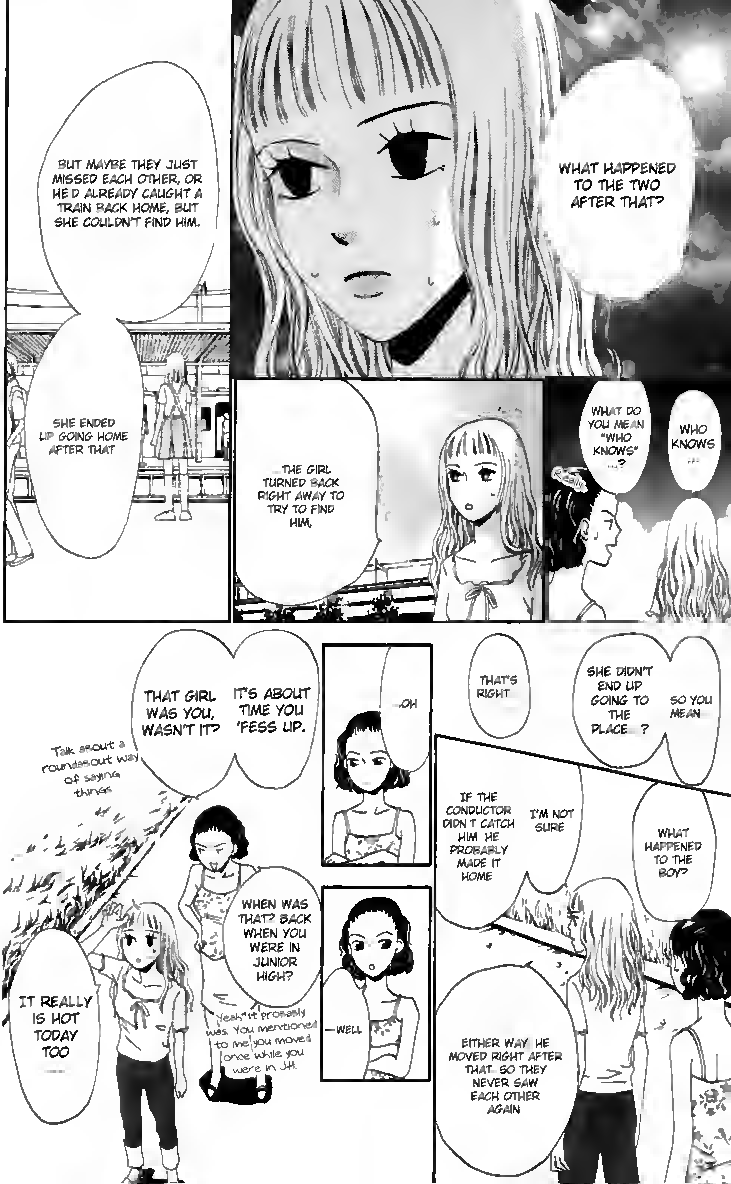
GEEZ
You were looking at me before, right?
Hey, hey?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, TAKAYAMA-KUN?
IT WAS SOON AFTER THOUGH THAT I HEARD RUMORS ABOUT YOU TRANSFERRING TO ANOTHER SCHOOL
WELL, 'CAUSE YOU'RE DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW?
LIKE THE WAY YOU WEAR YOUR UNIFORM,
AND THE STUFF YOU HAVE ON YOU—ARE NOT LIKE OTHERS.
I GUESS THEY WERE FADS AT YOUR OTHER SCHOOL OR WHATEVER...
EVEN IF I DIDN'T WANT TO,
MY EYES JUST DRIFTED TO YOU BECAUSE OF IT, YOU KNOW?
—he's pretending like he hasn't noticed.
HEY
THE SUN'S RAYS'RE SWITCHING DIRECTIONS
clank
clank
REALLY
REALLY?

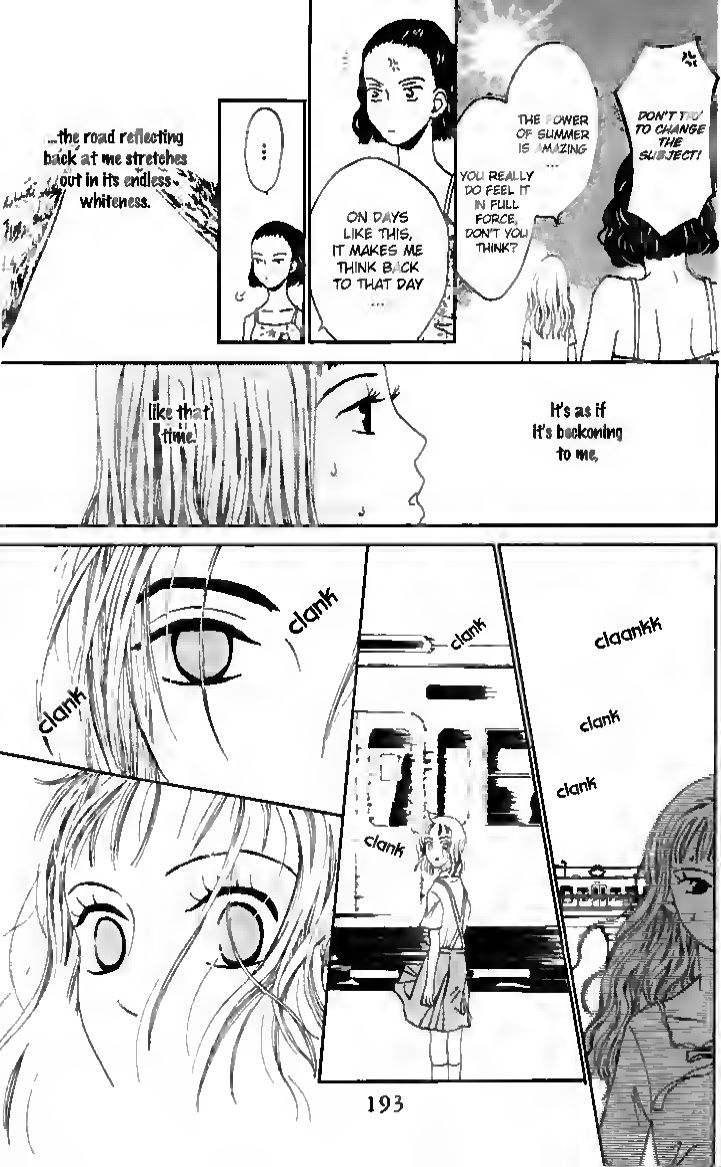

That was when I realized for the first time that there is such a thing as bittersweet guilt...
WHO KNOWS...
SO I BET YOUR PARENTS ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU...
...YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE WHERE YOU WERE GOING,
but our knees have been touching for a while now.
clank
ARE YOU FEELING GUILTY?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
...
clank
The warmth radiating from where our knees are touching nurtures the feelings of guilt that I have within me...
WELL...
...
Prick
but if it were possible, I wish we could've stayed like that forever.
rattle


BA-DUMP
ATTENTION EVERYONE. I WILL BE GOING AROUND NOW TO CHECK YOUR TRAIN TICKETS
WHAT...?
TAKAYAMA-KUN RUN!
GRE-AT.
THANK YOU...
ba-dump
OH SHIT
There aren't very many people on this train right now.
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...
He's coming.
ba-dump
WHAT ARE WE...
...!
WHA?
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT
BECAUSE I HAVE A PASS...
BUT YOU'LL GET INTO TROUBLE IF HE CATCHES YOU,
SO...
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump

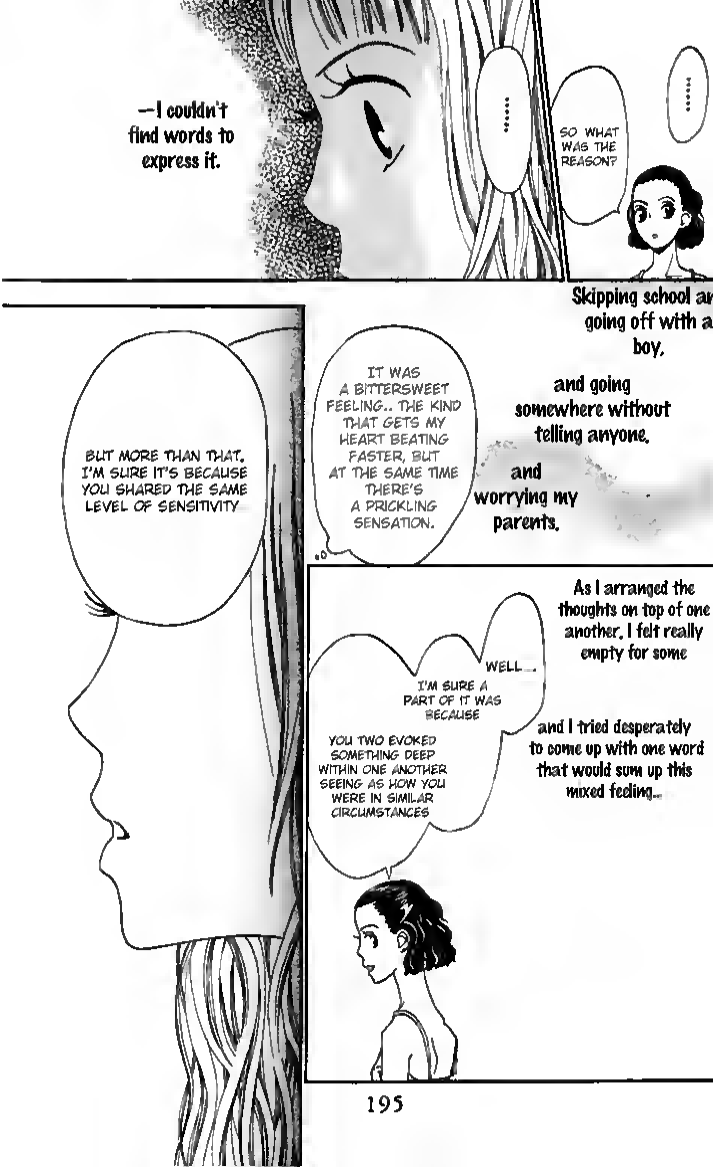

YOU NEED TO GET OFF AT THE NEXT STOP, OKAY?
HURRY!
I'LL BUY YOU SOME TIME BY DISTRACTING HIM!
YOU SHOULD TRY TO SWITCH TO ONE OF THE CARRIAGES THAT THEY'VE ALREADY CHECKED!
YOU...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME AND JUST GO TO THE PLACE YOU WANTED TO GO IN THE FIRST PLACE,
GOT IT?
"THE PLACE YOU WANTED TO GO IN THE FIRST PLACE..."

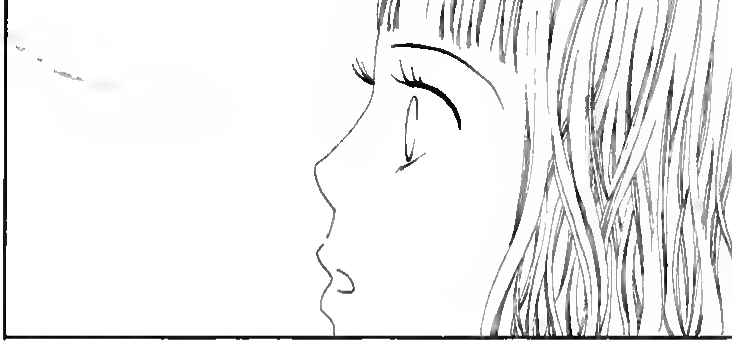

TAKE CARE!
SO—


WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TWO AFTER THAT?
BUT MAYBE THEY JUST MISSED EACH OTHER, OR HE'D ALREADY CAUGHT A TRAIN BACK HOME, BUT SHE COULDN'T FIND HIM.
SHE ENDED UP GOING HOME AFTER THAT
THE GIRL TURNED BACK RIGHT AWAY TO TRY TO FIND HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHO KNOWS" ...?
WHO KNOWS ...
SO YOU MEAN
SHE DIDN'T END UP GOING TO THE PLACE ?
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M NOT SURE
IF THE CONDUCTOR DIDN'T CATCH HIM HE PROBABLY MADE IT HOME
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BOY?
EITHER WAY, HE MOVED RIGHT AFTER THAT. SO THEY NEVER SAW EACH OTHER AGAIN
...OH
—WELL
THAT GIRL WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU 'FESS UP.
Talk about a roundabout way of saying things
WHEN WAS THAT? BACK WHEN YOU WERE IN JUNIOR HIGH?
Yeah, it probably was. You mentioned to me you moved once while you were in JH.
IT REALLY IS HOT TODAY TOO


...the road reflecting back at me stretches out in its endless whiteness.
ON DAYS LIKE THIS, IT MAKES ME THINK BACK TO THAT DAY ...
THE POWER OF SUMMER IS AMAZING ...
YOU REALLY DO FEEL IT IN FULL FORCE, DON'T YOU THINK?
DON'T YOU TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT!
like that time.
It's as if it's beckoning to me.
clank
clank
clank
clank
clank
clankkk

AND I THOUGHT LATER ON
YEAH,
Huh, so that's how it was?
clank
clank
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THAT'S BOTHERING ME...
HEY,
WHAT IS IT?
ABOUT WHAT WAS BEHIND OUR FEELINGS IN WANTING TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...
ABOUT WHY I BECAME SATISFIED FROM JUST RIDING ON THE TRAIN...
OH...
YOU WERE ALMOST THERE, WEREN'T YOU?
WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO THAT TOWN THAT YOU USED TO LIVE IN?
YEAH, I'VE OFTEN WONDERED THAT MYSELF
ABOUT WHY OUR PERSPECTIVES OVERLAPPED
ABOUT WHY HE WENT ALONG WITH ME...
AND WHY IT WAS SO MUCH FUN
AND WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THAT SUDDEN FEELING OF GUILT
AND IT SUDDENLY DIDN'T MATTER TO ME ANYMORE WHETHER I WENT OR NOT.
RIDING ON THE TRAIN THOUGH, BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I FELT THIS SENSE OF SATISFACTION OVERTAKE ME,


—I couldn't find words to express it.
.....
.....
SO WHAT WAS THE REASON?
Skipping school and going off with a boy,
and going somewhere without telling anyone,
and worrying my parents.
IT WAS A BITTERSWEET FEELING.. THE KIND THAT GETS MY HEART BEATING FASTER, BUT AT THE SAME TIME THERE'S A PRICKLING SENSATION.
BUT MORE THAN THAT, I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE YOU SHARED THE SAME LEVEL OF SENSITIVITY
As I arranged the thoughts on top of one another, I felt really empty for some
WELL...
I'M SURE A PART OF IT WAS BECAUSE
YOU TWO EVOKED SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN ONE ANOTHER SEEING AS HOW YOU WERE IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES
and I tried desperately to come up with one word that would sum up this mixed feeling...



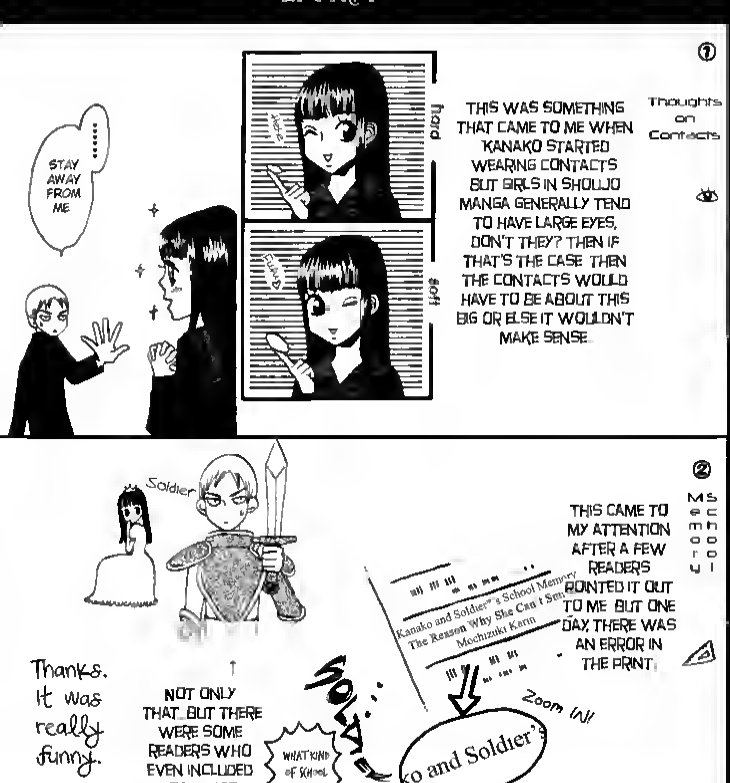
Ishouju Scans

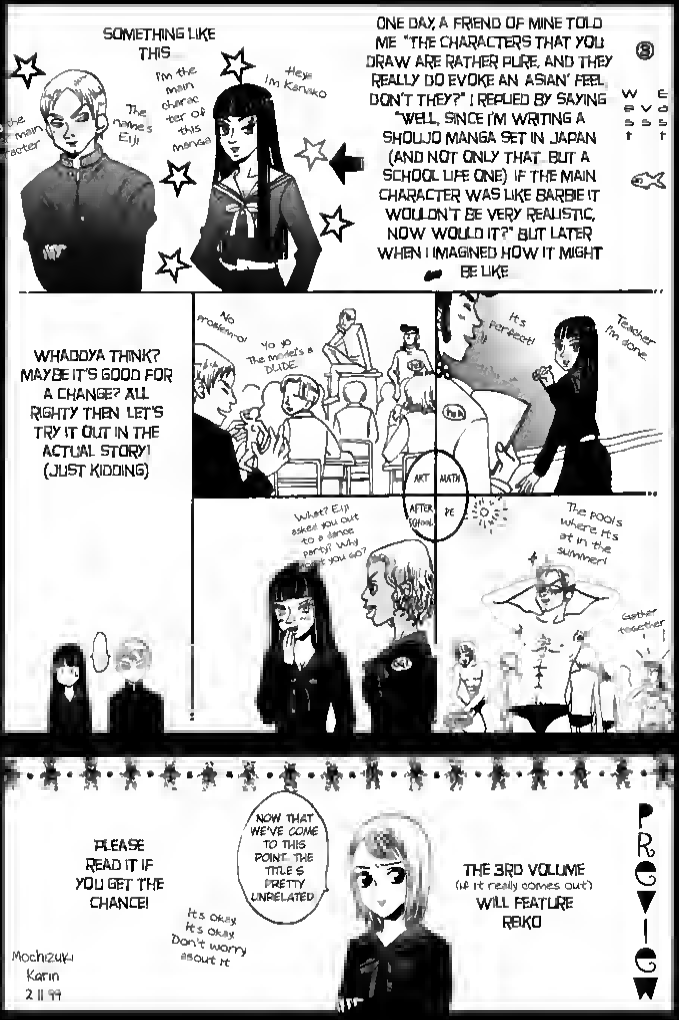
Fare Dodges / THE END

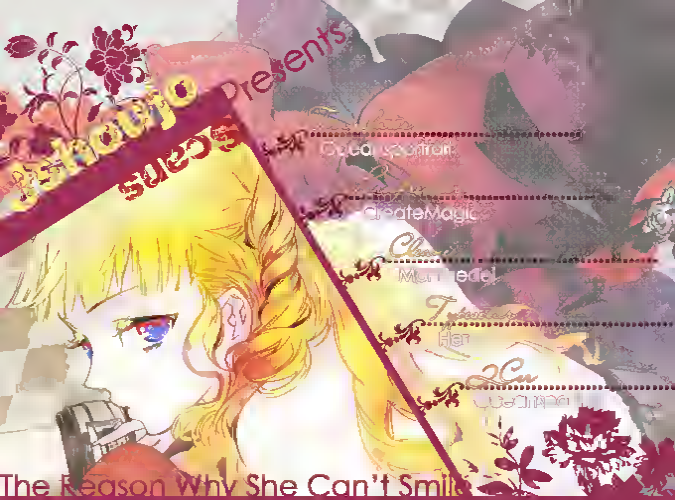
<END OF VOLUME 2>

WOULD YOU LIKE A COUGH DROP?

EXTRA


STAY AWAY FROM ME
Hard
Soft
Thoughts on Contacts
THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT CAME TO ME WHEN KANAKO STARTED WEARING CONTACTS BUT GIRLS IN SHOUJO MANGA GENERALLY TEND TO HAVE LARGE EYES, DON'T THEY? THEN IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN THE CONTACTS WOULD HAVE TO BE ABOUT THIS BIG OR ELSE IT WOULDN'T MAKE SENSE.
Soldier
Thanks. It was really funny.
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT THERE WERE SOME READERS WHO EVEN INCLUDED DRAWINGS
WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL MEMORY IS THIS?!
SOLVED!
Zoom in!
Kanako and Soldier"s School Memory
The Reason Why She Can't Sm
Mochizuki Kanri
THIS CAME TO MY ATTENTION AFTER A FEW READERS POINTED IT OUT TO ME. BUT ONE DAY, THERE WAS AN ERROR IN THE PRINT.
Ms. Schmoozi
"T/L Note: The kanji for "Eiji" and "Soldier" are very similar. The editor probably mistyped this and no one caught it in time."


SOMETHING LIKE THIS
The main character
The name's Eiji
I'm the main character of this manga
Hey! I'm Kanuko
ONE DAY, A FRIEND OF MINE TOLD ME "THE CHARACTERS THAT YOU DRAW ARE RATHER PURE, AND THEY REALLY DO EVOKE AN ASIAN' FEEL, DON'T THEY?" I REPLIED BY SAYING "WELL, SINCE I'M WRITING A SHOUJO MANGA SET IN JAPAN (AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT A SCHOOL LIFE ONE) IF THE MAIN CHARACTER WAS LIKE BARBIE IT WOULDN'T BE VERY REALISTIC, NOW WOULD IT?" BUT LATER WHEN I IMAGINED HOW IT MIGHT BE LIKE
8
WEEVILS
WHADDYA THINK? MAYBE IT'S GOOD FOR A CHANGE? ALL RIGHTY THEN LET'S TRY IT OUT IN THE ACTUAL STORY! (JUST KIDDING)
No problem-o!
Yo yo. The meter's a GLIDE.
ART
MATH
PE
AFTER SCHOOL
It's perfect!
Teacher I'm done
What? Eiji asked you out to a dance party? Why didn't you say so?
The pools where it's at in the summer!
Gather together!
PREVIEW
PLEASE READ IT IF YOU GET THE CHANCE!
NOW THAT WE'VE COME TO THIS POINT, THE TITLE'S PRETTY UNRELATED
It's okay It's okay Don't worry about it
THE 3RD VOLUME (if it really comes out) WILL FEATURE REIKO
Mochizuki Karin 2.11.99



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